



RFP No: 4347

INVITATION: Proposals, subject to the attached conditions, will be received at this office until **January 22, 2021 @ 3:00 p.m.** Central Time for the acquisition of the products/services described below for **Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services.**

Microsoft Unified and Premier Support Services

NOTE: THIS RFP CONTAINS MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS TO WHICH NO EXCEPTION MAY BE TAKEN. SEE SECTION VII, ITEM 2, FOR DETAILS.

The Vendor must submit proposals and direct inquiries to:

Justin Faucette
Technology Consultant
Information Technology Services
3771 Eastwood Drive
Jackson, MS 39211
(601) 432-8165
Justin.Faucette@its.ms.gov

To prevent opening by unauthorized individuals, the proposal must be sealed in an envelope/package. The following must be clearly typed on a label affixed to the package in a clearly visible location:

PROPOSAL, SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO
RFP NO. 4347
due January 22, 2021 @ 3:00 p.m.,
ATTENTION: Justin Faucette

David C. Johnson

David C. Johnson
Executive Director, ITS

ITS RFP Response Checklist

RFP Response Checklist: These items should be included in your response to RFP No. 4347.

- _____ 1) One USB flash drive that includes the Vendor's complete proposal. Label the USB with the Vendor name and RFP number. Include the items listed below on the USB.
- _____ 2) *Submission Cover Sheet*, signed and dated. (Section I)
- _____ 3) *Proposal Bond*, if applicable (Section I)
- _____ 4) *Proposal Exception Summary*, if applicable (Section V)
- _____ 5) Vendor response to *RFP Questionnaire* (Section VI)
- _____ 6) Point-by-point response to *Technical Specifications* (Section VII)
- _____ 7) Vendor response to *Cost Information Submission* (Section VIII)
- _____ 8) *References* (Section IX)

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SECTION I
SUBMISSION COVER SHEET & CONFIGURATION SUMMARY

Provide the following information regarding the person responsible for the completion of your proposal. This person should also be the person the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services, (ITS), should contact for questions and/or clarifications.

Name	_____	Phone #	_____
Address	_____	Fax #	_____
	_____	E-mail	_____

Subject to acceptance by ITS, the Vendor acknowledges that by submitting a proposal AND signing in the space indicated below, the Vendor is contractually obligated to comply with all items in this Request for Proposal (RFP), including the Standard Contract in Exhibit A if included herein, except those listed as exceptions on the Proposal Exception Summary Form. If no *Proposal Exception Summary Form* is included, the Vendor is indicating that he takes no exceptions. This acknowledgement also contractually obligates any and all subcontractors that may be proposed. Vendors who sign below may not later take exception to any point during contract negotiations. The Vendor further certifies that the company represented here is an authorized dealer in good standing of the products/services included in this proposal.

Original signature of Officer in Bind of Company/Date

Name (typed or printed) _____
Title _____
Company name _____
Physical address _____
State of Incorporation _____

CONFIGURATION SUMMARY

The Vendor must provide a summary of the main components of products/services offered in this proposal using 100 words or less.

PROPOSAL BONDS

A Proposal Bond is not required for this procurement.

SECTION II

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The objective of the Proposal Submission Requirements section is to provide Vendors with the information required to submit a response to this Request for Proposal (RFP). A Vendor who has responded to previous RFPs issued by ITS should not assume that the requirements are the same, as changes may have been made.

1. Failure to follow any instruction within this RFP may, at the State's sole discretion, result in the disqualification of the Vendor's proposal.
2. The State has no obligation to locate or acknowledge any information in the Vendor's proposal that is not presented under the appropriate outline according to these instructions and in the proper location.
3. The Vendor's proposal must be received, in writing, by the office of ITS by the date and time specified. ITS is not responsible for any delays in delivery or expenses for the development or delivery of proposals. Any proposal received after proposal opening time will be returned unopened. Any proposal received with insufficient postage will be returned unopened.
4. Proposals or alterations by fax, e-mail, or phone will not be accepted.
5. Original signatures in blue ink are required on the Submission Cover Sheet and Configuration Summary. The Vendor must include the Proposal Bond within the proposal package, (if explicitly required in Section IV).
6. ITS reserves the right to reject any proposals, including those with exceptions, prior to and at any time during negotiations.
7. ITS reserves the right to waive any defect or irregularity in any proposal procedure.
8. The Vendor may intersperse their response following each RFP specification but must not otherwise alter or rekey any of the original text of this RFP. If the State determines that the Vendor has altered any language in the original RFP, the State may, in its sole discretion, disqualify the Vendor from further consideration. The RFP issued by ITS is the official version and will supersede any conflicting RFP language submitted by the Vendor.
9. The Vendor must conform to the following standards in the preparation of the Vendor's proposal:
 - 9.1 The Vendor is required to submit one response of the complete proposal, including all sections and exhibits, on a USB flash drive. Vendor's documents must be submitted in Microsoft Office 2010 or higher format and/or PDF format, as appropriate. If PDF format is submitted, the file must be searchable.
 - 9.2 To prevent opening by unauthorized individuals, the proposal must be sealed in a package/envelope. A label containing the information on the RFP cover page must be clearly typed and affixed to the package in a clearly visible location.

- 9.3 Number each page of the proposal.
 - 9.4 Respond to the sections and exhibits in the same order as this RFP.
 - 9.5 Label the file names of each section and exhibit, using the corresponding headings from the RFP.
 - 9.6 If the Vendor does not agree with any item in any section, then the Vendor must list the item on the *Proposal Exception Summary Form*. (See Section V for additional instructions regarding Vendor exceptions.)
 - 9.7 Occasionally, an outline point in an attachment requests information which is not applicable to the products/services proposed. If the Vendor is certain the point does not apply to the given RFP, the Vendor should respond with "NOT APPLICABLE."
 - 9.8 Where an outline point asks a question or requests information, the Vendor must respond with the specific answer or information requested.
 - 9.9 When an outline point/attachment is a statement provided for the Vendor's information only, the Vendor need only read that point. The Vendor acknowledges having read and accepting, or taking exception to, all sections by signing the *Submission Cover Sheet* and providing a *Proposal Exception Summary Form*.
 - 9.10 Where a minimum requirement has been identified, respond by stating the item (e.g., device name/model number, guaranteed response time) proposed and how it will meet the specifications.
 - 9.11 The Vendor must fully respond to each requirement within the *Technical Specifications* by fully describing the manner and degree by which the proposal meets or exceeds said requirements.
 - 9.12 If a Vendor includes confidential, proprietary, or trade secret information, they must also submit a complete redacted version of the proposal. This redacted version may be submitted as a separate USB flash drive and must be included as a searchable PDF. Vendors shall only redact (black out) language that is exempt from disclosure pursuant to the Mississippi Public Records Act of 1983. (See Section IV Item 35 for additional information regarding *Disclosure of Proposal Information*)
10. It is the responsibility of the Vendor to clearly identify all costs associated with any item or series of items in this RFP. The Vendor must include and complete all parts of the cost proposal in a clear and accurate manner. **Omissions, errors, misrepresentations, or inadequate details in the Vendor's cost proposal may be grounds for rejection of the Vendor's proposal. Costs that are not clearly identified will be borne by the Vendor.** The Vendor must complete the *Cost Information Submission* in this RFP, which outlines the minimum requirements for providing cost information. The Vendor should supply supporting details as described in the *Cost Information Submission*.

11. **ITS** reserves the right to request additional information or clarification of a Vendor's proposal. The Vendor's cooperation during the evaluation process in providing **ITS** staff with adequate responses to requests for clarification will be considered a factor in the evaluation of the Vendor's overall responsiveness. Lack of such cooperation or failure to provide the information in the manner required may, at the State's discretion, result in the disqualification of the Vendor's proposal.
12. Unsolicited clarifications and updates submitted after the deadline for proposals will be accepted or rejected at the sole discretion of **ITS**.
13. Unsolicited clarifications in the evaluation and selection of lowest and best proposal will be considered only if all the following conditions are met:
 - 13.1 A clarification to a proposal that includes a newly announced product line or service with equal or additional capability to be provided at or less than the proposed price will be considered.
 - 13.2 Information provided must be in effect nationally and have been formally and publicly announced through a news medium that the Vendor normally uses to convey customer information.
 - 13.3 Clarifications must be received early enough in the evaluation process to allow adequate time for re-evaluation.
 - 13.4 The Vendor must follow procedures outlined herein for submitting updates and clarifications.
 - 13.5 The Vendor must submit a statement outlining the circumstances for the clarification.
 - 13.6 The Vendor must submit unsolicited clarifications via USB in the same manner as detailed in Item 9 above.
 - 13.7 The Vendor must be specific about which part of the original proposal is being changed by the clarification (i.e., must include exact RFP reference to section and outline point).
14. **Communications with State**

From the issue date of this RFP until a Vendor is selected and the selection is announced, responding Vendors or their representatives may not communicate, either orally or in writing regarding this RFP with any statewide elected official, state officer or employee, member of the legislature or legislative employee except as noted herein. To ensure equal treatment for each responding Vendor, all questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to the State's contact person for the selection process, and not later than the last date for accepting responding Vendor questions provided in this RFP. All such questions will be answered officially by the State in writing. All such questions and answers will become addenda to this RFP, and they will be posted to the ITS web site. Vendors failing to comply with this requirement will be subject to disqualification.

- 14.1 The State's contact person for the selection process is: Justin Faucette, Technology Consultant, 3771 Eastwood Drive, Jackson, MS 39211, 601-432-8165, Justin.Faucette@its.ms.gov.
- 14.2 Vendor may consult with State representatives as designated by the State's contact person identified in 14.1 above in response to State-initiated inquiries. Vendor may consult with State representatives during scheduled oral presentations and demonstrations excluding site visits.

SECTION III VENDOR INFORMATION

The objective of the Vendor Information section of this RFP is to provide Vendors with information required to respond to the RFP successfully.

1. **Interchangeable Designations**

The terms "Vendor" and "Contractor" are referenced throughout this RFP. Generally, references to the "Vendor" are used in conjunction with the proposing organization and procurement process leading up to the final RFP selection and award. The term "Contractor" denotes the role assumed, post-award, by the winning Vendor. Additionally, the terms "State of Mississippi," "State" or "ITS" may be used interchangeably throughout this RFP to denote the political entity issuing the RFP and requesting responses from Vendors throughout these specifications. References to a specific agency, institution or other political entity represent the client or customer on whose behalf ITS is issuing the RFP.

2. **Vendor's Responsibility to Examine RFP**

Vendors must examine all documents, forms, specifications, standard provisions, and instructions.

3. **Proposal as Property of State**

All written proposal material becomes the property of the State of Mississippi.

4. **Written Amendment to RFP**

Any interpretation of an ITS RFP will be made by written amendment only. The State will not be responsible for any other explanation of this RFP. A copy of any amendment will be posted on the ITS website, together with the associated RFP specification. Vendors are required to check the ITS website periodically for RFP amendments before the proposal opening date at:

http://www.its.ms.gov/Procurement/Pages/RFPS_Awaiting.aspx

Any and all amendments will be posted no later than noon, seven days prior to the proposal opening date listed on the cover page of this RFP. If you are unable to access the ITS website, you may contact the ITS technology consultant listed on page one of this RFP and request a copy.

5. **Oral Communications Not Binding**

Only transactions which are in writing from ITS may be considered official. No negotiations, decisions, or actions shall be executed by any Vendor as a result of any discussions with any State employee.

6. **Vendor's Responsibility for Delivery**

Vendors must ensure, through reasonable and sufficient follow-up, proper compliance with, and fulfillment of all schedules and deliverables specified within the body of this RFP. The State will not be responsible for the failure of any delivery medium for submission of information to or from the Vendor, including but not limited to, public and private carriers, U.S. mail, Internet Service Providers, facsimile, or e-mail.

7. **Evaluation Criteria**
The State's intent in issuing this RFP is to award a contract to the lowest and best responsive Vendor who meets specifications, considering price and other factors. The Vendor's past performance, cooperation, and ability to provide service and training are general factors that will be weighed in the selection process. More specific information concerning evaluation criteria is presented in *Technical Specifications*.
8. **Multiple Awards**
ITS reserves the right to make multiple awards.
9. **Right to Award in Whole or Part**
ITS reserves the right to approve an award by individual items or in total, whichever is deemed to be in the best interest of the State of Mississippi.
10. **Right to Use Proposals in Future Projects**
The State reserves the right to evaluate the awarded proposal from this RFP, including all products and services proposed therein, along with the resulting contractual terms, for possible use in future projects if (a) it is deemed to be in the best interest of the State to do so; and (b) the Vendor is willing to extend a cost less than or equal to that specified in the awarded proposal and resulting contract. A decision concerning the utilization of a Vendor's proposal for future projects is solely at the discretion of the State and requires the agreement of the proposing Vendor. The State's decision to reuse an awarded proposal will be based upon such criteria as: (1) the customer's business requirements; (2) elapsed time since the award of the original project; and/or (3) research on changes in the Vendor, market, and technical environments since the initial award.
11. **Right to Use Proposals in Future Projects by Entities Outside Mississippi**
The State reserves the right to offer the awarded proposal from this RFP, including all products and services proposed therein, along with the resulting contractual terms, for possible use in future projects by governmental entities outside Mississippi (i.e., "piggyback option"), if (a) it is deemed to be in the best interest of the governmental entity desiring to do so; and (b) the Vendor is willing to extend a cost less than or equal to that specified in the awarded proposal and resulting contract. A decision concerning the utilization of a Vendor's proposal for future projects outside Mississippi is solely at the discretion of the State and requires the desire of the governmental entity outside Mississippi and the agreement of the proposing Vendor. The State's decision to consent to the reuse of an awarded proposal outside Mississippi will be based upon such criteria as: (1) the governmental entity's business requirements; (2) elapsed time since the award of the original project; and/or (3) research on changes in the Vendor, market, and technical environments since the initial award.
12. **Price Changes During Award or Renewal Period**
A price increase will not be accepted during the award period or the renewal period, unless stipulated in the contract. However, the State will always take advantage of price decreases.
13. **Right to Request Information**
The State reserves the right to request information relative to a Vendor's references and financial status and to visit a Vendor's facilities during normal working hours. The State also reserves the right to request a current financial statement, prepared and certified by

an independent auditing firm, and reserves the right to require that Vendors document their financial ability to provide the products and services proposed up to the total dollar amount of the Vendor's cost proposal. The State reserves the right to request information about the Vendor from any previous customer of the Vendor of whom the State is aware, even if that customer is not included in the Vendor's list of references.

14. Vendor Personnel

For RFPs including professional services specifications, the Vendor will be required to provide and/or certify the following for each individual included in the Vendor's proposal:

- 14.1 A direct telephone number at which the individual may be contacted for a telephone interview. The State will pay toll charges in the continental United States. The Vendor must arrange a toll-free number for all other calls.
- 14.2 That, if onsite interviews are required, the individual can be at the specified location in Mississippi within the timeframe specified. All costs associated with onsite interviews will be the responsibility of the Vendor.
- 14.3 That the individual is proficient in spoken and written English;
- 14.4 That the individual is a U.S. citizen or that the individual meets and will maintain employment eligibility requirements in compliance with all United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) regulations. The Vendor must provide evidence of identification and employment eligibility prior to the award of a contract that includes any personnel who are not U. S. citizens.
- 14.5 That the personnel assigned to a project will remain a part of the project throughout the duration of the contract as long as the personnel are employed by the Vendor, unless replaced by the Vendor at the request of the State. This requirement includes the responsibility for ensuring all non-citizens maintain current USCIS eligibility throughout the duration of the contract.

15. Vendor Imposed Constraints

The Vendor must specifically document what limitations, if any, exist in working with any other Contractor acting in the capacity of the State's business partner, subcontractor or agent who may be managing any present or future projects; performing quality assurance; integrating the Vendor's software; and/or providing web-hosting, hardware, networking or other processing services on the State's behalf. The project relationship may be based on roles as either equal peers; supervisory – subordinate; or subordinate – supervisory, as determined by the State. The State recognizes that the Vendor may have trade secrets, intellectual property and/or business relationships that may be subject to its corporate policies or agreements. The State must understand these issues in order to decide to what degree they may impact the State's ability to conduct business for this project. These considerations will be incorporated accordingly into the proposal evaluation and selection process. The understanding reached between the Vendor and the State with regard to this business relationship precludes the Vendor from imposing any subsequent limitations of this type in future project undertakings by the State.

16. Best and Final Offer

The State reserves the right to solicit Best and Final Offers (BAFOs) from Vendors, principally in situations in which proposal costs eclipse available funding or the State believes none of the competing proposals presents a Best Value (lowest and best proposal) opportunity. Because of the time and expense incurred by both the Vendor community and the State, BAFOs are not routinely conducted. Vendors should offer their best pricing with the initial solicitation. Situations warranting solicitation of a BAFO will be considered an exceptional practice for any procurement. Vendors that remain in a competitive range within an evaluation may be requested to tender Best and Final Offers, at the sole discretion of the State. All such Vendors will be provided an equal opportunity to respond with a Best and Final Offer under a procedure to be defined by the State that encompasses the specific, refined needs of a project, as part of the BAFO solicitation. The State may re-evaluate and amend the original project specifications should it be deemed necessary in order to improve the opportunity for attaining Best Value scenarios from among the remaining competing Vendors. All BAFO proceedings will be uniformly conducted, in writing and subject to solicitation by the State and receipt from the Vendors under a precise schedule.

17. Restriction on Advertising

The Vendor must receive written approval from the State before advertising or referencing the award of the contract or the services being provided. The Vendor must agree not to refer to awards in commercial advertising in such a manner as to state or imply that the firm or its services are endorsed or preferred by the State of Mississippi.

18. Rights Reserved to Use Existing Product Contracts

The State reserves the right on turnkey projects to secure certain products from other existing ITS contracts if it is in its best interest to do so. If this option is exercised, then the awarded Vendor must be willing to integrate the acquisition and implementation of such products within the schedule and system under contract.

19. Additional Information to be Included

In addition to answering each specification within this RFP, the Vendor must include complete product/service information, including product pictorials and technical/descriptive literature relative to any product/service offered with the proposal. Information submitted must be sufficiently detailed to substantiate that the products/services offered meet or exceed specifications.

20. Valid Contract Required to Begin Work

The successful Vendor should not commence any billable work until a valid contract has been executed. Any work done by the successful Vendor prior to the execution of the contract is done at the Vendor's sole risk. The State is under no obligation to pay for work done prior to the execution of a contract.

SECTION IV LEGAL AND CONTRACTUAL INFORMATION

The objective of the *Legal and Contractual Information* section is to provide Vendors with information required to complete a contract or agreement with ITS successfully.

1. **Acknowledgment Precludes Later Exception**

By signing the *Submission Cover Sheet*, the Vendor is contractually obligated to comply with all items in this RFP, including the *Standard Contract* in Exhibit A if included herein, except those specifically listed as exceptions on the *Proposal Exception Summary Form*. If no *Proposal Exception Summary Form* is included, the Vendor is indicating that he takes no exceptions. Vendors who respond to this RFP by signing the *Submission Cover Sheet* may not later take exception to any item in the RFP during contract negotiations. This acknowledgement also contractually obligates any and all subcontractors that may be proposed. No exceptions by subcontractors or separate terms and conditions will be entertained after the fact.

2. **Failure to Respond as Prescribed**

Failure to respond as described in Section II: *Proposal Submission Requirements* to any item in the sections and exhibits of this RFP, including the *Standard Contract* attached as Exhibit A, if applicable, shall contractually obligate the Vendor to comply with that item.

3. **Contract Documents**

ITS will be responsible for all document creation and editorial control over all contractual documentation related to each procurement project. The following documents will normally be included in all contracts between ITS and the Vendor:

- 3.1 The *Proposal Exception Summary Form* as accepted by ITS;
- 3.2 Contracts which have been signed by the Vendor and ITS;
- 3.3 ITS' Request for Proposal, including all addenda;
- 3.4 Official written correspondence from ITS to the Vendor;
- 3.5 Official written correspondence from the Vendor to ITS when clarifying the Vendor's proposal; and
- 3.6 The Vendor's proposal response to the ITS RFP.

4. **Order of Precedence**

When a conflict arises regarding contract intent due to conflicting statements in documents included in the contract, the order of precedence of each document is as listed above unless modification of order is negotiated and agreed upon by both ITS and the winning Vendor.

5. **Additional Contract Provisions**

The contract will also include such additional provisions, which are not inconsistent or incompatible with the material terms of this RFP, as may be agreed upon by the parties. All of the foregoing shall be in such form and substance as prescribed by the State.

6. Contracting Agent by Law

The Executive Director of ITS is, by law, the purchasing and contracting agent for the State of Mississippi in the negotiation and execution of all contracts for the acquisition of computer and telecommunications equipment, systems, software, and services (Section 25-53-1, et seq., of the Mississippi Code Annotated). ITS is issuing this RFP on behalf of the procuring agency or institution. ITS and the procuring agency or institution are sometimes collectively referred to within this RFP as "State".

7. Legal Provisions

- 7.1 The State of Mississippi is self-insured; all requirements for the purchase of casualty or liability insurance are deleted.
- 7.2 Any provisions disclaiming implied warranties shall be null and void. See Mississippi Code Annotated Sections 11-7-18 and 75-2-719(4). The Vendor shall not disclaim the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose.
- 7.3 The Vendor shall have no limitation on liability for claims related to the following items:
 - 7.3.1 Infringement issues;
 - 7.3.2 Bodily injury;
 - 7.3.3 Death;
 - 7.3.4 Physical damage to tangible personal and/or real property; and/or
 - 7.3.5 The intentional and willful misconduct or negligent acts of the Vendor and/or Vendor's employees or subcontractors.
- 7.4 All requirements that the State pay interest (other than in connection with lease-purchase contracts not exceeding five years) are deleted.
- 7.5 Any contract negotiated under this RFP will be governed by and construed according to the laws of the State of Mississippi. Venue for the resolution of any dispute shall be Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi.
- 7.6 Any contract negotiated under this RFP is cancelable in the event the funding authority does not appropriate funds. Notice requirements to Vendor cannot exceed sixty (60) days.
- 7.7 The State of Mississippi does not waive its sovereign immunities or defenses as provided by law by entering into this contract with the Vendor, Vendor agents, subcontractors, or assignees.
- 7.8 The State will deliver payments to the Vendor within forty-five (45) days after receipt of invoice and receipt, inspection, and approval of Vendor's products/services. No late charges will exceed 1.5% per month on any unpaid

balance from the expiration of said period until payment is delivered. See Section 31-7-305 of the Mississippi Code Annotated. Seller understands and agrees that Purchaser is exempt from the payment of taxes.

- 7.9 The State shall not pay any attorney's fees, prejudgment interest or the cost of legal action to or for the Vendor.

8. Approved Contract

- 8.1 Award of Contract - A contract is considered to be awarded to a proposer once the proposer's offering has been approved as lowest and best proposal through:

- 8.1.1 Written notification made to proposers on ITS letterhead, or
- 8.1.2 Notification posted to the ITS website for the project, or
- 8.1.3 CP-1 authorization executed for the project, or
- 8.1.4 The ITS Board's approval of same during an open session of the Board.

- 8.2 ITS statute specifies whether ITS Director approval or ITS Board approval is applicable for a given project, depending on the total lifecycle cost of the contract.

- 8.3 A contract is not deemed final until five (5) working days after either the award of contract or post procurement review, as stipulated in the ITS Protest Procedure and Policy. In the event of a valid protest, the State may, at its sole discretion, continue the procurement or stay the procurement in accordance with the ITS Protest Procedure and Policy. If the procurement is stayed, the contract is not deemed final until the protest is resolved.

9. Contract Validity

All contracts are valid only if signed by the Executive Director of ITS.

10. Order of Contract Execution

Vendors will be required to sign contracts and to initial all contract changes before the Executive Director of ITS signs.

11. Availability of Funds

All contracts are subject to availability of funds of the acquiring State entity and are contingent upon receipt by the winning Vendor of a purchase order from the acquiring State entity.

12. CP-1 Requirement

All purchase orders issued for goods and services acquired from the awarded Vendor under this RFP must be encoded by the Customer agency with a CP-1 approval number assigned by ITS. This requirement does not apply to acquisitions that by policy have been delegated to State entities.

13. Requirement for Electronic Payment and Invoicing

- 13.1 Payments to the awarded Vendor for all goods and services acquired under this RFP by state agencies that make payments through the Mississippi State Government's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solution ("MAGIC") will be made electronically, via deposit to the bank account of the Vendor's choice. The awarded Vendor must enroll and be activated in PayMode™, the State's current vehicle for sending and receiving electronic payments, prior to receiving any payments from state agencies. There is no charge for a Vendor to enroll or receive payments via PayMode. For additional information on PayMode, including registration instructions, Vendors should visit the following website: <http://www.paymode.com/mississippi>. Vendors may also request assistance from the Mississippi Management and Reporting System (MMRS) Call Center regarding PayMode registration by contacting mash@dfa.ms.gov.
- 13.2 For state agencies that make payments through MAGIC, the awarded Vendor is required to submit electronically all invoices for goods and services acquired under this RFP, along with appropriate supporting documentation, as directed by the State.
- 13.3 Items 13.1 and 13.2 only apply to state agencies that make payments through MAGIC. Payments and invoices for all other entities will conform to their standard methods of payment to contractors.

14. Time For Negotiations

- 14.1 All contractual issues must be successfully negotiated within fifteen (15) working days from the Vendor's initial receipt of the project contract from ITS, unless ITS consents to extend the period. Failure to complete negotiations within the stated time period constitutes grounds for rejection of the Vendor's response to this RFP. ITS may withdraw the proposal award and begin negotiations with the next ranked Vendor immediately or pursue any other option.
- 14.2 Negotiations shall be limited to items to which the Vendor has noted as exceptions on their Proposal Exception Summary Form, as well as any new items that the State may require. All contract changes requested by the Vendor related to such exceptions noted in Vendor's proposal shall be submitted three (3) working days prior to scheduled negotiations, unless ITS consents to a different period.

15. Prime Contractor

The selected Vendor will be designated the prime contractor in the proposal, and as such, shall be solely responsible for all products/services offered in the proposal and for the fulfillment of the contract with the State.

16. Sole Point of Contact

ITS will consider the selected Vendor to be the sole point of contact with regard to contractual matters, including payment of any and all charges resulting from the contract.

- 16.1 The Vendor must acknowledge and agree that in matters of proposals, clarifications, negotiations, contracts and resolution of issues and/or disputes, the Vendor represents all contractors, third parties and/or subcontractors the Vendor has assembled for this project. The Vendor's commitments are binding on all such parties and consequently the State is only required to negotiate with the Vendor.
- 16.2 Furthermore, the Vendor acknowledges and agrees to pass all rights and/or services related to all general consulting, services leasing, software licensing, warranties, hardware maintenance and/or software support to the State from any contractor, third party or subcontractor without the State having to negotiate separately or individually with any such parties for these terms or conditions.
- 16.3 Should a proposing Vendor wish to assign payment of any or all charges resulting from this contract to a third party, Vendor must disclose that fact in his/her proposal, along with the third party's name, address, nature of business, and relationship to the proposing Vendor, the reason for and purpose of the assignment, and all conditions of the assignment, including but not limited to a copy of an assignment document to be executed by the State, the Vendor, and the third party. Such assignments will be accepted or rejected at the sole discretion of the State. Vendor must clearly and definitively state in his/her proposal whether the proposal is contingent upon the requested assignment of payments. Whenever any assignment of payment is requested, the proposal, contract, and assignment document must include language specifically guaranteeing that the proposing Vendor is solely and fully liable and responsible for the performance of its obligations under the subject contract. No assignment of payment will be considered at the time of purchase unless such assignment was fully disclosed in the Vendor's proposal and subsequently accepted by the State.
17. **ITS Approval of Subcontractor Required**
Unless provided in the contract, the Vendor shall not contract with any other party for furnishing any of the contracted work or services without the consent, guidance, and written approval of the State. ITS reserves the right of refusal and the right to request replacement of a subcontractor due to unacceptable work or conduct. This provision should not be interpreted as requiring the approval of individual contracts of employment between the Vendor and personnel assigned for services under the contract.
18. **Inclusion of Subcontract Agreements**
Copies of any agreements to be executed between the Vendor and any subcontractors must be included in the Vendor's proposal.
19. **Negotiations with Subcontractor**
In order to protect the State's interest, ITS reserves the right to attempt to resolve the contractual disagreements that may arise between the Vendor and its subcontractor after award of the contract.
20. **References to Vendor to Include Subcontractor**

All references in the RFP to "Vendor" shall be construed to encompass both the Vendor and its subcontractors.

21. Outstanding Vendor Obligations

- 21.1 Any Vendor who presently owes the State of Mississippi money pursuant to any contract for which ITS is the contracting agent and who has received written notification from ITS regarding the monies owed, must submit, with the proposal, a certified check in the amount due and owing in order for the proposal in response to this RFP to be considered. For a Vendor currently in bankruptcy as of the RFP submission date, this requirement is met, if and only if, ITS has an active petition before the appropriate bankruptcy court for recovery of the full dollar amount presently owed to the State of Mississippi by that Vendor. If the Vendor has emerged from bankruptcy by the RFP submission date, the Vendor must pay in full any amount due and owing to the State, as directed in the court-approved reorganization plan, prior to any proposal being considered.
- 21.2 Any Vendor who is presently in default on existing contracts for which ITS is the contracting agent, or who otherwise is delinquent in the performance of any such contracted obligations, is in the sole judgment of the State required to make arrangement for fulfilling outstanding obligations to the satisfaction of the State in order for the proposal to be considered.
- 21.3 The State, at its sole discretion, may reject the proposal of a Vendor with any significant outstanding financial or other obligations to the State or who is in bankruptcy at the time of proposal submission.

22. Equipment Condition

For all RFPs requiring equipment, the Vendor must furnish only new equipment in response to ITS specifications, unless an explicit requirement for used equipment is otherwise specified.

23. Delivery Intervals

The Vendor's proposal must specify, in the *Cost Information Submission* and in response to any specific instructions in the *Technical Specifications*, delivery and installation intervals after receipt of order.

24. Pricing Guarantee

The Vendor must explicitly state, in the *Cost Information Submission* and in response to any specific instructions in the *Technical Specifications*, how long the proposal will remain valid. Unless stated to the contrary in the *Technical Specifications*, pricing must be guaranteed for a minimum of ninety (90) days.

25. Shipping Charges

For all RFPs requiring shipment of any product or component, all products must be delivered FOB destination to any location within the geographic boundaries of the State with all transportation charges prepaid and included in the RFP proposal or LOC quotation. Destination is the point of use.

26. Amortization Schedule

For all RFPs requiring equipment, contracts involving the payment of interest must include an amortization schedule clearly documenting the amount of interest payable over the term of the contract.

27. Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance for Web Development and Portal Related Services

All Web and Portal development work must be designed and implemented in compliance with the Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility Standards associated with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act and with the Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) of the W3C.

28. Ownership of Developed Software

28.1 When specifications require the Vendor to develop software for the State, the Vendor must acknowledge and agree that the State is the sole owner of such developed software with exclusive rights to use, alter, or distribute the software without restriction. This requirement applies to source code, object code, and documentation.

28.2 The State may be willing to grant the Vendor a nonexclusive license to use the State's software subject to devising acceptable terms and license fees. This requirement is a matter of State Law, and not negotiable.

29. Ownership of Custom Tailored Software

In installations where the Vendor's intellectual property is modified and custom-tailored to meet the needs of the State, the Vendor must offer the State an application license entitling the State to use, and/or alter the software without restriction. These requirements apply to source code, object code and documentation.

30. Terms of Software License

The Vendor acknowledges and agrees that the term of all software licenses provided to the State shall be perpetual unless stated otherwise in the Vendor's proposal.

31. The State is Licensee of Record

The Vendor must not bypass the software contracting phase of a project by licensing project software intended for State use in its company name. Upon award of a project, the Vendor must ensure that the State is properly licensed for all software that is proposed for use in a project.

32. Compliance with Enterprise Security Policy

Any solution or service proposed in response to this RFP must be in compliance with the State of Mississippi's Enterprise Security Policy. The Enterprise Security Policy is based on industry-standard best practices, policy, and guidelines and is established to safeguard the State's information technology (IT) assets from unauthorized use, access, disclosure, modification, or destruction. Given that information security is an evolving technology practice, the State reserves the right to introduce new policy during the term of the contract resulting from this RFP and require the Vendor to ensure the solution or service complies with same in the event the industry introduces more secure, robust solutions or practices that facilitate a more secure posture for the State of Mississippi. Vendors wanting to view

the Enterprise Security Policy should contact the Technology Consultant listed on the cover page of this RFP.

33. **Compliance with Enterprise Cloud and Offsite Hosting Security Policy**
Any cloud or vendor-hosted solution proposed in response to this RFP must be in compliance with the State of Mississippi's Enterprise Cloud and Offsite Hosting Security Policy. The Enterprise Cloud and Offsite Hosting Security Policy is based on industry-standard best practices, policy, and guidelines and augments the Enterprise Security Policy. Given that information security is an evolving technology practice, the State reserves the right to introduce new policy during the term of the contract resulting from this RFP and require the Vendor to ensure the cloud or vendor-hosted solution complies with same in the event the industry introduces more secure, robust solutions or practices that facilitate a more secure posture for the State of Mississippi. Vendors wanting to view the Enterprise Cloud and Offsite Hosting Security Policy should contact the Technology Consultant listed on the cover page of this RFP.
34. **Negotiating with Next Ranked Vendor**
Should the State cease doing business with any Vendor selected via this RFP process, for any reason, the State reserves the right to initiate negotiations with the next ranked Vendor.
35. **Disclosure of Proposal Information**
Vendors should be aware that any information in a proposal may be subject to disclosure or reproduction under the Mississippi Public Records Act of 1983, defined in Section 25-61-1 et seq. of the Mississippi Code Annotated. All disclosures of proposal information will be made in compliance with the ITS Public Records Procedures established in accordance with the Mississippi Public Records Act. The ITS Public Records Procedures are available in Section 019-010 of the ITS Procurement Handbook, on the ITS Internet site at:

<http://www.its.ms.gov/Procurement/Documents/ISS%20Procurement%20Manual.pdf#page=155> or from ITS upon request.

As outlined in the Third Party Information section of the ITS Public Records Procedures, ITS will give written notice to any affected Vendor of a request to view or reproduce the Vendor's proposal or portion thereof. The redacted version, as submitted, will be available for inspection and released in response to public records requests. If a redacted version of the Vendor's proposal is not submitted, the original submission of the proposal will be provided in response to a public records request. ITS will not, however, give such notice with respect to summary information prepared in connection with the State's review or evaluation of a Vendor's proposal, including, but not limited to, written presentations to the ITS Board or other approving bodies, and/or similar written documentation prepared for the project file. In addition, ITS will not provide third-party notice for requests for any contract executed as a result of this RFP.

Summary information and contract terms, as defined above, become the property of ITS, who has the right to reproduce or distribute this information without notification.

Vendors should further be aware that requests for disclosure of proposal information are sometimes received by ITS significantly after the proposal opening date. ITS will notify

the signatory "Officer in Bind of Company" provided in Section I of this RFP for Notification of Public Records Requests in the event information is requested. If the "Officer in Bind of Company" should not be used for notification of public records requests, Vendor should provide the alternative contact information in response to this RFP item.

36. Risk Factors to be Assessed

The State will assess risk factors that may initially exist within a given procurement and that may develop over the course of a procurement process as facts become known. The State, at its sole discretion, may employ the following mechanisms in mitigating these risks: proposal bonding, performance bonding, progress payment plan with retainage, inclusion of liquidated damages, and withholding payment for all portions of the products/services acquired until final acceptance. The Vendor must agree to incorporate any or all of the above terms and conditions into the customer agreement.

37. Proposal Bond

The Vendor is not required to include a proposal bond.

38. Performance Bond/Irrevocable Bank Letter of Credit

The Vendor is not required to include the price of a performance bond or irrevocable bank letter of credit with its RFP proposal.

39. Responsibility for Behavior of Vendor Employees/Subcontractors

The Vendor will be responsible for the behavior of all its employees and subcontractors while on the premises of any State agency or institution. Any Vendor employee or subcontractor acting in a manner determined by the administration of any State agency or institution to be detrimental, abusive, or offensive to any of the staff or student body of any State agency or institution will be asked to leave the premises and can be suspended from further work on the premises.

40. Protests

The Executive Director of ITS and/or the Board Members of ITS or their designees shall have the authority to resolve Vendor protests in connection with the selection for award of a contract. Copies of the protest procedures are available on the ITS Internet site - ITS Protest Procedure and Policy, Section 019-020, ITS Procurement Handbook at:

<http://www.its.ms.gov/Procurement/Documents/ISS%20Procurement%20Manual.pdf#page=173> or from ITS upon request.

41. Protest Bond

Potential Vendors may protest any of the specifications of this RFP on the belief that the specification is unlawful, unduly restrictive, or unjustifiably restraining to competition. Any such protest must be in writing and submitted to the ITS Executive Director along with the appropriate protest bond within five (5) working days of the Official Release of the RFP, as defined in the ITS Protest Procedure and Policy. The outside of the envelope must be marked "Protest" and must specify RFP Number 4347.

As a condition precedent to filing any protest related to this procurement, the Vendor must procure, submit to the ITS Executive Director with its written protest, and maintain in effect at all times during the course of the protest or appeal thereof, a protest bond in the full amount of the total estimated project lifecycle cost or \$250,000.00, whichever is less. The

total estimated project lifecycle cost will be the amount used by ITS in the computation of cost points, as the low cost in the denominator of the cost evaluation formula. The bond shall be accompanied by a duly authenticated or certified document evidencing that the person executing the bond is a licensed Mississippi agent for the bonding company. This certified document shall identify the name and address of the person or entity holding the protest bond and shall identify a contact person to be notified in the event that the State is required to take action against the bond. The protest bond shall not be released to the protesting Vendor until the protest is finally resolved and the time for appealing said protest has expired. The protest bond shall be procured at the protesting Vendor's expense and be payable to the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services. Prior to approval of the protest bond, ITS reserves the right to review the protest bond and require the protesting Vendor to substitute an acceptable bond in such form as the State may reasonably require. The premiums on such bond shall be paid by the protesting Vendor. The State may claim against the protest bond as specified in Section 25-53-5 (n) of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended during the 1998 Mississippi legislative session, in addition to all other rights and remedies the State may have at law or in equity.

Should the written protest submitted by the Vendor fail to comply with the content requirements of ITS' protest procedure and policy, fail to be submitted within the prescribed time limits, or fail to have the appropriate protest bond accompany it, the protest will be summarily dismissed by the ITS Executive Director.

42. Mississippi Employment Protection Act

Effective July 1, 2008, Vendor acknowledges that if awarded, it will ensure its compliance with the Mississippi Employment Protection Act, Section 71-11-1, et seq. of the Mississippi Code Annotated (Supp2008), and will register and participate in the status verification system for all newly hired employees. The term "employee" as used herein means any person that is hired to perform work within the State of Mississippi. As used herein, "status verification system" means the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act of 1996 that is operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security, also known as the E-Verify Program, or any other successor electronic verification system replacing the E-Verify Program. Vendor will agree to maintain records of such compliance and, upon request of the State and approval of the Social Security Administration or Department of Homeland Security, where required, to provide a copy of each such verification to the State.

Vendor acknowledges and certifies that any person assigned to perform services hereunder meets the employment eligibility requirements of all immigration laws of the State of Mississippi.

Vendor acknowledges that violating the E-Verify Program (or successor thereto) requirements subjects Vendor to the following: (a) cancellation of any state or public contract and ineligibility for any state or public contract for up to three (3) years, with notice of such cancellation being made public, or (b) the loss of any license, permit, certification or other document granted to Vendor by an agency, department or governmental entity for the right to do business in Mississippi for up to one (1) year, or (c) both. Vendor would also be liable for any additional costs incurred by the State due to contract cancellation or loss of license or permit.

SECTION V PROPOSAL EXCEPTIONS

Please return the *Proposal Exception Summary Form* at the end of this section with all exceptions to items in any Section of this RFP listed and clearly explained or state "No Exceptions Taken." If no *Proposal Exception Summary Form* is included, the Vendor is indicating that he takes no exceptions to any item in this RFP document.

1. Unless specifically disallowed on any specification herein, the Vendor may take exception to any point within this RFP, including a specification denoted with "shall" or "must," as long as the following are true:
 - 1.1 The specification is not a matter of State law;
 - 1.2 The proposal still meets the intent of the RFP;
 - 1.3 A *Proposal Exception Summary Form* is included with Vendor's proposal; and
 - 1.4 The exception is clearly explained, along with any alternative or substitution the Vendor proposes to address the intent of the specification, on the *Proposal Exception Summary Form*.
2. The Vendor has no liability to provide items to which an exception has been taken. ITS has no obligation to accept any exception. During the proposal evaluation and/or contract negotiation process, the Vendor and ITS will discuss each exception and take one of the following actions:
 - 2.1 The Vendor will withdraw the exception and meet the specification in the manner prescribed;
 - 2.2 ITS will determine that the exception neither poses significant risk to the project nor undermines the intent of the RFP and will accept the exception;
 - 2.3 ITS and the Vendor will agree on compromise language dealing with the exception and will insert same into the contract; or
 - 2.4 None of the above actions is possible, and ITS either disqualifies the Vendor's proposal or withdraws the award and proceeds to the next ranked Vendor.
3. Should ITS and the Vendor reach a successful agreement, ITS will sign adjacent to each exception which is being accepted or submit a formal written response to the *Proposal Exception Summary* responding to each of the Vendor's exceptions. The *Proposal Exception Summary*, with those exceptions approved by ITS, will become a part of any contract on acquisitions made under this RFP.
4. An exception will be accepted or rejected at the sole discretion of the State.
5. The State desires to award this RFP to a Vendor or Vendors with whom there is a high probability of establishing a mutually agreeable contract, substantially within the standard terms and conditions of the State's RFP, including the *Standard Contract* in Exhibit A, if

included herein. As such, Vendors whose proposals, in the sole opinion of the State, reflect a substantial number of material exceptions to this RFP, may place themselves at a comparative disadvantage in the evaluation process or risk disqualification of their proposals.

6. For Vendors who have successfully negotiated a contract with ITS in the past, ITS requests that, prior to taking any exceptions to this RFP, the individual(s) preparing this proposal first confer with other individuals who have previously submitted proposals to ITS or participated in contract negotiations with ITS on behalf of their company, to ensure the Vendor is consistent in the items to which it takes exception.

PROPOSAL EXCEPTION SUMMARY FORM

List and clearly explain any exceptions, for all RFP Sections and Exhibits, in the table below.

ITS RFP Reference	Vendor Proposal Reference	Brief Explanation of Exception	ITS Acceptance
(Reference specific outline point to which exception is taken)	(Page, section, items in Vendor's proposal where exception is explained)	(Short description of exception being made)	(sign here only if accepted)
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			

SECTION VI RFP QUESTIONNAIRE

Please answer each question or provide the information as requested in this section.

1. **Mississippi's Accountability System for Government Information and Collaboration (MAGIC) Information for State of Mississippi Vendor File**

- 1.1 **MAGIC Vendor Code:** Any Vendor who has not previously done business with the State and has not been assigned a MAGIC Vendor code should visit the following link to register:

https://sus.magic.ms.gov/sap/bc/webdynpro/sapsrm/wda_e_suco_sreg?sap-client=100

Vendors who have previously done business with the State may obtain their MAGIC Vendor code and all Vendors may access additional Vendor information at the link below.

<http://www.dfa.ms.gov/dfa-offices/mmrs/mississippi-suppliers-vendors/supplier-self-service/>

All Vendors must furnish ITS with their MAGIC Vendor code.

MAGIC Vendor Code: _____

- 1.2 **Vendor Self-Certification Form:** The State of Mississippi, in an effort to capture participation by minority Vendors, asks that each Vendor review the State of Mississippi Minority Vendor Self Certification Form. This information is for tracking/reporting purposes only and will not be used in determining which Vendor will be chosen for the project. Any Vendor who can claim status as a Minority Business Enterprise or a Woman Business Enterprise in accordance with the definitions on this form and who has not previously submitted a form to the State of Mississippi should submit the completed form with the proposal. A copy of the Minority Vendor Self-Certification Form can be obtained at:

<https://mississippi.org/services/minority/>

Please direct any questions about minority certification in Mississippi to the Minority Business Enterprise Division of the Mississippi Development Authority by telephone at (601) 359-3448 or via email at minority@mississippi.org.

If Vendor is claiming status as a Minority Business Enterprise or Woman Business Enterprise, the Vendor must include a copy of their Minority Vendor Self-Certification Form with their RFP response.

2. **Certification of Authority to Sell**

The Vendor must certify Vendor is a seller in good standing, authorized to sell and able to deliver all items and related services proposed in the State of Mississippi in the time frame specified. Does the Vendor make these certifications? (A yes or no answer is required.)

3. Compliance with National Defense Authorization Act

The Vendor must state if Vendor equipment being provided is in compliance with the National Defense Authorization Act, Section 889. (A yes or no answer is required.)

4. Certification of No Conflict of Interest

Mississippi law clearly forbids a direct or indirect conflict of interest of a company or its employees in selling to the State. The Vendor must answer and/or provide the following:

4.1 Does there exist any possible conflict of interest in the sale of items to any institution within ITS jurisdiction or to any governing authority? (A yes or no answer is required.)

4.2 If the possibility of a conflict does exist, provide a list of those institutions and the nature of the conflict on a separate page and include it in your proposal. The Vendor may be precluded from selling to those institutions where a conflict of interest may exist.

5. Pending Legal Actions

5.1 Are there any lawsuits or other legal proceedings against the Vendor that pertain to any of the software, hardware, or other materials and/or services which are a part of the Vendor's proposal? (A yes or no answer is required.)

5.2 Are there any criminal or civil proceedings (federal or state) pending against the Vendor or its principals or employees that pertain to any public procurement within the State of Mississippi or elsewhere? (A yes or no answer is required.)

5.3 If your answer to either of the above is "yes", provide a copy of same and state with specificity the current status of the proceedings.

5.4 The State, at its sole discretion, may reject the proposal of a Vendor who (a) has criminal or civil proceedings pending that pertain to a public procurement within Mississippi or elsewhere, or (b) has lawsuits or other legal proceedings pending that pertain to any of the products or services which are part of the Vendor's proposal.

6. Non-Disclosure of Social Security Numbers

Does the Vendor agree that any information system proposed, developed, or modified under this RFP that disseminates, in any form or manner, information or material that contains the Social Security Number of an individual, has mechanisms in place to prevent the inadvertent disclosure of the individual's Social Security Number to members of the general public or to persons other than those persons who, in the performance of their duties and responsibilities, have a lawful and legitimate need to know the individual's Social Security Number? This agreement is required by Section 25-1-111 of the Mississippi Code Annotated.

7. Web Amendments

As stated in Section III, ITS will use the ITS website to post amendments regarding RFPs before the proposal opening at:

http://www.its.ms.gov/Procurement/Pages/RFPS_Awaiting.aspx

ITS may post clarifications until noon seven days prior to the proposal opening date listed on the cover page of this RFP or the posted extension date, if applicable.

Vendors may list any questions or items needing clarification discovered in the week prior to the proposal opening in a written format at the beginning of the proposal binder or in the comment section for the individual offering.

Does the Vendor certify that they have reviewed a copy of the ITS amendments for RFPs as above stated? (A yes or no answer is required.)

8. **Order and Remit Address**

The Vendor must specify both an order and a remit address:

Order Address:

--

Remit Address (if different):

--

9. **Taxpayer Identification Number**

Vendor must specify their taxpayer identification number.

10. **Certification of Liability Insurance**

Vendor must provide a copy of their Certificate of Liability Insurance with their RFP response.

11. **E-Verify Registration Documentation**

Vendor must ensure its compliance with the Mississippi Employment Protection Act, Section 71-11-1, et seq. of the Mississippi Code Annotated (Supp2008). Vendor must provide documentation of their E-Verify compliance with their RFP response. See Section IV, Item 42 for additional information.

SECTION VII TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

1. How to Respond to this Section

- 1.1 Beginning with Item 6 and through Item 7 of this section, label and respond to each outline point in this section as it is labeled in the RFP.
- 1.2 The State is under the impression that Vendors have read and agree to all items in this RFP. Vendors should take exception to items in which they disagree.
- 1.3 The Vendor must respond with "WILL COMPLY" or "EXCEPTION" to each point in this section. In addition, many items in this RFP require detailed and specific responses to provide the requested information. Failure to provide the information requested will result in the Vendor receiving a lower score for that item, or, at the State's sole discretion, being subject to disqualification.
- 1.4 "WILL COMPLY" indicates that the vendor can and will adhere to the requirement. This response specifies that a vendor or vendor's proposed solution must comply with a specific item or must perform a certain task.
- 1.5 If the Vendor cannot respond with "WILL COMPLY", then the Vendor must respond with "EXCEPTION". (See Section V for additional instructions regarding Vendor exceptions.)
- 1.6 Where an outline point asks a question or requests information, the Vendor must respond with the specific answer or information requested.
- 1.7 In addition to the above, Vendor must provide explicit details as to the manner and degree to which the proposal meets or exceeds each specification.

2. Mandatory Provisions in Technical Requirements for this RFP

- 2.1 Certain items in the technical specifications of this RFP are **MANDATORY**. Vendors are specifically disallowed from taking exception to these mandatory requirements, and proposals that do not meet all mandatory requirements are subject to immediate disqualification.
- 2.2 Mandatory requirements are those features classified as "**MANDATORY**" in Section VII, Technical Specifications. Meeting a mandatory requirement means the Vendor meets the qualifications and experience required and/or requested functionality exists in the base solution.

3. General Overview and Background

- 3.1 In the past six years, the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services (ITS) has been the contracting agent for seven Microsoft Premier Support agreements. Three of these agreements were with institutions of

higher learning and four were with state and local government entities. The total spend for these agreements is \$7,365,999.28. State and local government contracts were \$5,999,782.50 and institutions of higher learning contracts were \$1,366,216.78.

3.2 ITS is seeking a qualified Vendor to provide the following services for a period of five (5) years beginning March 1, 2021:

3.2.1 Microsoft Unified Support services for state agencies and local government entities.

3.2.2 Microsoft Premier Support services for institutions of higher learning.

4. Procurement Project Schedule

Task	Date
First Advertisement Date for RFP	12/22/20
Second Advertisement Date for RFP	12/29/20
Deadline for Vendor's Written Questions	3:00 p.m. Central Time on 01/06/21
Deadline for Questions Answered and Posted to ITS Web Site	01/14/21
Open Proposals	01/22/21
Evaluation of Proposals	01/22/21
Notification of Award	02/03/21
Contract Negotiation	February 2021
Master Agreement Executed	02/26/2021

5. Statements of Understanding

5.1 The State expects to execute a Supplement to the Master Purchase Agreement for each Unified Support or Premier Support engagement.

5.2 As new services become available through Microsoft's Unified Support and Premier Support service offerings, these services can be made available to the State for purchase if Microsoft provides official documentation of the pricing.

5.3 The State understands and accepts that Microsoft's pricing is subject to change. In the event that Microsoft's pricing changes, the State requires the awarded Vendor to provide a copy of the official updated pricing to the State.

5.4 Vendors may request additional information or clarifications to this RFP using the following procedure:

5.4.1 Vendors must clearly identify the specified paragraph(s) in the RFP that is in question.

5.4.2 Vendor must deliver a written document to Justin Faucette at ITS by January 6, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. Central Time. This document may be delivered by hand, mail, email, or fax. Address information is given on page one of this RFP. The fax number is (601) 713-6380. **ITS WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DELAYS IN THE DELIVERY OF QUESTION DOCUMENTS.** It is solely the responsibility of the vendor that the clarification document reaches ITS on time. Vendors may contact Justin Faucette to verify the receipt of their document. Documents received after the deadline will be rejected.

5.5 All questions will be compiled and answered, and a written document containing all questions submitted and corresponding answers will be posted on the ITS web site by close of business on January 14, 2021.

6. Technical Requirements

6.1 **MANDATORY** - The Unified Support and Premier Support services requested in this RFP must be provided by Microsoft Corporation.

6.2 **MANDATORY** - Vendor must be authorized by Microsoft Corporation to resell Unified Support and Premier Support services. Vendor must provide documentation with proposal response to verify this authorization.

6.3 Vendor must provide pricing for all line items in Section VIII, Cost Information Submission.

7. Additional Requirements

7.1 ITS acknowledges that the specifications within this RFP are not exhaustive. Rather, they reflect the known requirements that must be met by the proposed system. Vendors must specify, here, what additional components may be needed and are proposed in order to complete each configuration.

8. Scoring Methodology

8.1 An Evaluation Team composed of ITS staff will review and evaluate all proposals. All information provided by the Vendors, as well as any other information available to evaluation team, will be used to evaluate the proposals.

8.1.1 Each category included in the scoring mechanism is assigned a weight between one and 100.

8.1.2 The sum of all categories equals 100 possible points.

8.1.3 For the evaluation of this RFP, the Evaluation Team will use the following categories and possible points:

Category	Possible
----------	----------

	Points
Cost (Percent +/- Cost)	100
Maximum Possible Points	100

8.2 The evaluation will be conducted in three stages as follows:

8.2.1 Stage 1 – Selection of Responsive/Valid Proposals – Each proposal will be reviewed to determine if it is sufficiently responsive to the RFP requirements to permit a complete evaluation. A responsive proposal must comply with the instructions stated in this RFP with regard to content, organization/format, and timely delivery. No evaluation points will be awarded in this stage. Failure to submit a complete proposal may result in rejection of the proposal.

8.2.2 Stage 2 – Cost Evaluation

8.2.2.1 Points will be assigned using the following formula:

$$(1 - ((B - A) / A)) * n$$

Where:

A = Percent +/- Cost of lowest valid proposal

B = Percent +/- Cost of proposal being scored

n = Maximum number of points allocated to cost for acquisition

8.2.2.2 Cost categories and maximum point values are as follows:

Cost Category	Possible Points
Cost (Percent +/- Cost)	100
Maximum Possible Points	100

8.2.3 Stage 3 – Selection of the successful Vendor

8.3 Final Quantitative Evaluation – The cost score will determine the Vendor's final score.

SECTION VIII COST INFORMATION SUBMISSION

Vendors must propose a summary of all applicable project costs in the matrix that follows. The matrix must be supplemented by a cost itemization fully detailing the basis of each cost category. The level of detail must address the following elements as applicable: item, description, quantity, retail, discount, extension, and deliverable. Any cost not listed in this section may result in the Vendor providing those products or services at no charge to the State or face disqualification.

Vendor's Percent +/- Cost*: _____

* Vendor's Percent +/- Cost applies to both Unified and Premier Support

Microsoft Unified Support Services Pricing			
Service	Value of Annual Software License Cost	Advanced	Performance
		Microsoft-Dictated Percent of Annual Software License Cost	
Server Products	\$0.00 - \$1,500,000.00		
	\$1,500,000.00 - \$3,000,000.00		
	\$3,000,000.00 - \$6,000,000.00		
	\$6,000,000.00 - \$15,000,000.00		
	over \$15,000,000.00		
User Products	\$0.00 - \$1,500,000.00		
	\$1,500,000.00 - \$3,000,000.00		
	\$3,000,000.00 - \$6,000,000.00		
	\$6,000,000.00 - \$15,000,000.00		
	over \$15,000,000.00		
Service	Value of 12-Month Historic Spend	Microsoft-Dictated Percent of Value of 12-Month Historic Spend	
Azure	\$0.00 - \$1,800,000.00		
	\$1,800,000.00 - \$6,000,000.00		

[illegible]

Microsoft-Dictated Premier Support Services Pricing	
Service	Hourly Rate without Vendor's Percent +/- Cost
Problem Resolution Support (PRS) hours	
Support Assistance (SA) hours	
Support Account Management (SAM) hours	
Designated Support Engineer (DSE) hours	
Cyber-Security Designated Support Engineer (DSE) hours	
Application Development Manager (ADM)	
Resource Site Visits	
Location	Price without Vendor's Percent +/- Cost
Alcorn State University	
Delta State University	
Jackson State University	
Mississippi State University	
Mississippi University for Women	
Mississippi Valley State University	
University of Mississippi	
University of Southern Mississippi	
University of Mississippi Medical Center	
Premier Online Website	Price without Vendor's Percent +/- Cost
Unlimited User Access to Premier Online Website	
Other	Price without Vendor's Percent +/- Cost
Other: (please describe)	

Microsoft Premier Support Services Third Tier Pricing					
PRS Hours	Microsoft Price in US Dollars (# of technologies) without Vendor's Percent +/- Cost				
	1	2	3	4	5
60-119					6
120-199					
200-299					
300-399					
400-499					
500-599					
600-699					
700-799					
800-899					

SECTION IX REFERENCES

Please return the following Reference Forms, and if applicable, Subcontractor Reference Forms.

1. References

- 1.1 The Vendor must provide at least **three (3)** references consisting of Vendor accounts that the State may contact. Required information includes customer contact name, address, telephone number, email address, and engagement starting and ending dates. Forms for providing reference information are included later in this RFP section. The Vendor must make arrangements in advance with the account references so that they may be contacted at the Project team's convenience without further clearance or Vendor intercession.
- 1.2 Any of the following may subject the Vendor's proposal to being rated unfavorably relative to these criteria or removed from further consideration, at the State's sole discretion:
 - 1.2.1 Failure to provide reference information in the manner described;
 - 1.2.2 Inability of the State to substantiate minimum experience or other requirements from the references provided;
 - 1.2.3 Non-responsiveness of references to the State's attempts to contact them; or
 - 1.2.4 Unfavorable references that raise serious concerns about material risks to the State in contracting with the Vendor for the proposed products or services.
- 1.3 References should be based on the following profiles and be able to substantiate the following information from both management and technical viewpoints:
 - 1.3.1 The reference installation must be for a pass-through project similar in scope and size to the project for which this RFP is issued;
 - 1.3.2 The reference installation must have been operational for at least six (6) months.
- 1.4 The State reserves the right to request information about the Vendor from any previous customer of the Vendor of whom the State is aware, including the procuring agency and/or other agencies or institutions of the State, even if that customer is not included in the Vendor's list of references, and to utilize such information in the evaluation of the Vendor's proposal.
- 1.5 Unless otherwise indicated in the Scoring Methodology in Section VII, reference information available to the State will be used as follows:

- 1.5.1 As documentation supporting mandatory experience requirements for companies, products, and/or individuals, as required in this RFP;
- 1.5.2 To confirm the capabilities and quality of a Vendor, product, or individual for the proposal deemed lowest and best, prior to finalizing the award.
- 1.6 The State reserves the right to forego reference checking when, at the State's sole discretion, the evaluation team determines that the capabilities of the recommended Vendor are known to the State.

2. Subcontractors

The Vendor's proposal must identify any subcontractor that will be used and include the name of the company, telephone number, contact person, type of work subcontractor will perform, number of certified employees to perform said work, and three (3) references for whom the subcontractor has performed work that the State may contact. Forms for providing subcontractor information and references are included at the end of this section.

Unless otherwise noted, the requirements found in the References section may be met through a combination of Vendor and subcontractor references and experience. Vendor's proposal should clearly indicate any mandatory experience requirements met by subcontractors. NOTE: The State reserves the right to eliminate from further consideration proposals in which the prime Vendor does not, in the State's sole opinion, provide substantive value or investment in the total solution proposed. (i.e. the State does not typically accept proposals in which the prime Vendor is only a brokering agent.)

REFERENCE FORM

Complete three (3) Reference Forms.

Contact Name:

Company Name:

Address:

Phone #:

E-Mail:

Project Start Date:

Project End Date:

Description of product/services/project, including start and end dates:

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SUBCONTRACTOR REFERENCE FORM

Complete three (3) Reference Forms for each Subcontractor.

Contact Name:

Company name:

Address:

Phone #:

E-Mail:

Project Start Date:

Project End Date:

Description of product/services/project, including start and end dates:

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**EXHIBIT A
STANDARD CONTRACT**

A properly executed contract is a requirement of this RFP. After an award has been made, it will be necessary for the winning Vendor to execute a contract with ITS. The inclusion of this contract does not preclude ITS from, at its sole discretion, negotiating additional terms and conditions with the selected Vendor(s) specific to the projects covered by this RFP.

If Vendor cannot comply with any term or condition of this Standard Contract, Vendor must list and explain each specific exception on the *Proposal Exception Summary Form* included in Section V.

**PROJECT # 45269
MASTER PURCHASE AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
VENDOR NAME
AND
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES
AS CONTRACTING AGENT FOR THE
AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI**

This Master Purchase Agreement (hereinafter referred to as "Master Agreement") is entered into by and between VENDOR NAME, a STATE OF INCORPORATION corporation having its principal place of business at VENDOR ADDRESS (hereinafter referred to as "Seller"), and the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services, having its principal place of business at 3771 Eastwood Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39211 (hereinafter referred to as "ITS"), as contracting agent for the governmental agencies and educational institutions of the State of Mississippi (hereinafter referred to as "Purchaser"). ITS and Purchaser are sometimes collectively referred to herein as "State". ITS and Seller are sometimes collectively referred to herein as "Parties".

WHEREAS, ITS, pursuant to Request for Proposals (hereinafter referred to as "RFP") Number 4347, requested proposals for the acquisition of Microsoft Premier and/or Unified Support Services;

WHEREAS, Seller was a successful proposer in an open, fair and competitive procurement process to serve as an authorized reseller;

WHEREAS, ITS desires to enter into a Master Agreement containing the terms and conditions which will govern any orders placed by the Purchaser during the term of this Master Agreement for Microsoft Premier and/or Unified Support Services ("Services") as specified in RFP No. 4347;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual understandings, promises, consideration and agreements set forth, the Parties hereto agree as follows:

ARTICLE 1 TERM OF AGREEMENT

Unless terminated as prescribed elsewhere herein, this Master Agreement will become effective on the date it is signed by all Parties (the "Effective Date") and will continue in effect through

February 28, 2026 ("Initial Term"). At the end of the Initial Term, the Master Agreement may, upon the written agreement of the Parties, be renewed for additional terms, the length of which will be agreed upon by the Parties. Sixty (60) days prior to the expiration of the Initial Term or any renewal term of this Master Agreement, Seller shall notify ITS in writing of the impending expiration and thereafter ITS shall notify Seller of its intent to either renew or cancel the Master Agreement.

ARTICLE 2 DEFINITIONS

"Seller" means **VENDOR NAME** and its successors and assigns

"Purchaser" means ITS and/or governmental agency and/or educational institution of the State of Mississippi who engages Sellers to provide the Services pursuant to this Master Agreement, and who shall be bound by the terms and conditions of this Master Agreement

"Services" means the services specified in RFP 4347, the Master Agreement, and individual supplement/purchaser order(s)

"Supplement and/or Purchase Order" means the document pursuant to which, among other things, Purchaser orders the Services from Seller and which shall reference this Master Agreement

ARTICLE 3 MODIFICATION OR RENEGOTIATION

This Master Agreement may be modified only by written agreement signed by the Parties hereto, and any attempt at oral modification shall be void and of no effect. The Parties agree to renegotiate the Master Agreement and any pertinent supplement /purchase order if federal and/or state revisions of any applicable laws or regulations make changes in this Master Agreement and any pertinent supplement/purchase order necessary.

ARTICLE 4 INCLUDED PARTIES

Seller will accept orders from and furnish the Services under this Master Agreement to any governmental agency, governing authority, or educational institution within Mississippi, at prices not to exceed those specified in Seller's Proposal, as accepted by the State, in response to RFP No. 4347.

ARTICLE 5 ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

All provisions in this Master Agreement are in addition to the requirements of RFP No. 4347 and Seller's Proposal, as accepted by the State, in response thereto, which are both incorporated into and made a part of this Master Agreement.

ARTICLE 6 ORDERS

6.1 The State does not guarantee that it will purchase any minimum amount under this Master Agreement.

6.2 When a Purchaser decides to procure any Services from Seller, the Purchaser shall execute a supplement/purchase order to be signed by Seller and ITS on behalf of the Purchaser. The supplement/purchaser order shall set forth the Services to be procured; the prices for same; any warranty period, the specific details of the transaction, and any additional terms and conditions agreed to that apply to the specific supplement/purchase order as agreed to in writing

by the parties. Any additional terms and conditions contained in any supplement/purchase order shall apply solely to the Services being procured therein.. All supplements/purchase orders shall be governed by, and incorporate by reference, the terms and conditions of this Master Agreement. Excluding better pricing and/or discounts which may be specified in a supplement/purchase order, in the event of a conflict between the other terms and conditions in the supplement/purchase order or the terms of any document provided by Seller or its subcontractors, and this Master Agreement, the terms and conditions of this Master Agreement shall prevail. The Parties agree that the Purchaser has the right to adjust the quantities of purchases based upon the availability of funding or as determined necessary by the Purchaser.

6.3 A Form for Alternative Uses of Support Assistance Hours shall be and hereby is attached to the Master Agreement as Exhibit A for use by any Purchaser participant who has a need to use Premier Product Support Assistance hours to fund a Microsoft workshop or event. This Form may be modified on occasion in order to meet new or changing requirements; however, any changes to the terms and conditions of the Form must be mutually agreed upon by ITS and Seller. Further involvement by ITS and other agencies or entities shall not be required unless changes are needed to the terms and conditions of the Form.

6.4 Seller guarantees its pricing for the term of RFP No. 4347. In the event there is a national price decrease of the Services bid during that time, Seller agrees to extend the new, lower pricing to Purchaser. Regardless of any price increase or decrease, the discount structure shall remain the same during the term of this Master Agreement.

ARTICLE 7

Seller shall provide prior written notice to ITS that the Services are being discontinued by Microsoft.

ARTICLE 8 METHOD OF PAYMENT

8.1 Seller shall submit an invoice for the cost and shall certify that the billing is true and correct. Seller shall submit invoices and supporting documentation electronically during the term of this Master Agreement using the processes and procedures identified by the State. Services will be invoiced as they are rendered. Purchaser agrees to pay Seller in accordance with Mississippi law on "Timely Payments for Purchases by Public Bodies", Sections 31-7-301, et seq. of the 1972 Mississippi Code Annotated, as amended, which generally provides for payment of undisputed amounts by the State within forty-five (45) days of receipt of the invoice. All payments shall be in United States currency. Payments by state agencies using Mississippi's Accountability System for Government Information and Collaboration (MAGIC) shall be made and remittance information provided electronically as directed by the State. The payments by these agencies shall be deposited into the bank account of the Seller's choice. Seller understands and agrees that Purchaser is exempt from the payment of taxes. No payment, including final payment, shall be construed as acceptance of defective Products or incomplete work, and Seller shall remain responsible and liable for full performance in strict compliance with the contract documents specified in the article herein titled "Entire Agreement".

8.2 If payment of undisputed amounts is not made to Seller within forty-five (45) days of Purchaser's receipt of the invoice, Purchaser shall be liable to Seller for interest at a rate of one and one-half percent (1 ½%) per month (or such lesser rate as may be the maximum permissible rate under the law) on the unpaid balance from the expiration of such forty-five (45) day period until such time as payment is made. This provision for late payments shall apply only to

undisputed amounts for which payment has been authorized.

ARTICLE 9 WARRANTIES

9.1 Seller represents and warrants that it has the right to sell the software Services provided under this Master Agreement.

9.2 Seller represents and warrants that it has and will obtain and pass through to Purchaser any and all warranties obtained or available from Microsoft.

9.3 Unless a longer warranty period is specified in the supplement/purchase order, Seller represents and warrants, for a period of ninety (90) days from performance of the service, that all work hereunder, including but not limited to, consulting, training and technical support, has been performed in a good and workmanlike manner and consistent with generally accepted industry standards. For any breach of this warranty, Seller shall perform the services again, at no cost to Purchaser, or if Seller is unable to perform the services as warranted, Seller shall reimburse Purchaser the fees paid to Seller for the unsatisfactory services. Seller's obligations pursuant to this warranty shall include, but are not limited to, the repair of all defects or the replacement of the Product at the expense of Seller. In the event Seller is unable to repair or replace the Product within ten (10) working days after receipt of notice of the defect, Purchaser shall be entitled to a full refund of fees paid and shall have the right to terminate the supplement/purchase order and this Master Agreement in whole or in part solely as between Seller and Purchaser. Purchaser's rights hereunder are in addition to any other rights Purchaser may have.

9.4 Seller represents and warrants that there is no computer virus contained in the Products when delivered to Purchaser. For purposes of this provision, a computer virus shall be defined as code intentionally inserted in the Products that will damage or destroy Purchaser's applications or data. For any breach of this warranty, Seller at its expense shall, within five (5) working days after receipt of notification of the breach, deliver Products to Purchaser that are free of any virus, and shall be responsible for repairing, at Seller's expense, any and all damage done by the virus to Purchaser's site.

9.5 Seller represents and warrants that it will ensure its compliance with the Mississippi Employment Protection Act, Section 71-11-1, et seq. of the Mississippi Code Annotated (Supp 2008), and will register and participate in the status verification system for all newly hired employees. The term "employee" as used herein means any person that is hired to perform work within the State of Mississippi. As used herein, "status verification system" means the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act of 1996 that is operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security, also known as the E-Verify Program, or any other successor electronic verification system replacing the E-Verify Program. Seller agrees to maintain records of such compliance and, upon request of the State and approval of the Social Security Administration or Department of Homeland Security, where required, to provide a copy of each such verification to the State. Seller further represents and warrants that any person assigned to perform services hereunder meets the employment eligibility requirements of all immigration laws of the State of Mississippi. Seller understands and agrees that any breach of these warranties may subject Seller to the following: (a) termination of this Master Agreement and ineligibility for any state or public contract in Mississippi for up to three (3) years, with notice of such cancellation/termination being made public, or (b) the loss of any license, permit, certification or other document granted to Seller by an agency, department or governmental entity for the right to do business in Mississippi for up to one (1) year, or (c) both. In the event of such

termination/cancellation, Seller would also be liable for any additional costs incurred by the State due to contract cancellation or loss of license or permit.

9.6 Seller represents and warrants that it will comply with the state's data breach notification laws codified at Section 75-24-29 of the Mississippi Code Annotated (Supp. 2012) and any and all applicable state and federal law and regulations related to disclosure of personally identifiable information. Further, to the extent applicable, Seller represents and warrants that it will comply with the applicable provisions of the HIPAA Privacy Rule and Security Regulations (45 CFR Parts 160, 162 and 164) ("Privacy Rule" and "Security Regulations", individually; or "Privacy and Security Regulations", collectively); and the provisions of the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act, Title XIII of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. No. 111-5 (the "HITECH Act").

9.7 Seller represents and warrants that no official or employee of Customer or of ITS, and no other public official of the State of Mississippi who exercises any functions or responsibilities in the review or approval of the undertaking or carrying out of the project shall, prior to the completion of said project, voluntarily acquire any personal interest, direct or indirect, in this Agreement. The Contractor warrants that it has removed any material conflict of interest prior to the signing of this Agreement, and that it shall not acquire any interest, direct or indirect, which would conflict in any manner or degree with the performance of its responsibilities under this Agreement. The Contractor also warrants that in the performance of this Agreement no person having any such known interests shall be employed.

9.8 Seller represents and warrants that no elected or appointed officer or other employee of the State of Mississippi, nor any member of or delegate to Congress has or shall benefit financially or materially from this Agreement. No individual employed by the State of Mississippi shall be admitted to any share or part of the Agreement or to any benefit that may arise therefrom. The State of Mississippi may, by written notice to the Contractor, terminate the right of the Contractor to proceed under this Agreement if it is found, after notice and hearing by the ITS Executive Director or his/her designee, that gratuities in the form of entertainment, gifts, jobs, or otherwise were offered or given by the Contractor to any officer or employee of the State of Mississippi with a view toward securing this Agreement or securing favorable treatment with respect to the award, or amending or making of any determinations with respect to the performing of such contract, provided that the existence of the facts upon which the ITS Executive Director makes such findings shall be in issue and may be reviewed in any competent court. In the event this Agreement is terminated under this article, the State of Mississippi shall be entitled to pursue the same remedies against the Contractor as it would pursue in the event of a breach of contract by the Contractor, including punitive damages, in addition to any other damages to which it may be entitled at law or in equity.

9.9 Seller represents and warrants that all work performed hereunder shall be performed by competent personnel, shall be of professional quality consistent with generally accepted industry standards for the performance of such services, and shall comply in all respects with the requirements of this Agreement.

9.10 Seller represents and warrants that neither the upgrades, enhancements, patches, or new revisions provided to Purchaser under this Agreement nor their use by Purchaser will violate or infringe or constitute an infringement of any patent, copyright, trademark, servicemark, trade secret, or other proprietary right of any person or entity. Purchaser shall notify Seller promptly of

any infringement claim of which it has knowledge and shall cooperate with Seller in the defense of such claim by supplying information, all at Seller's expense. Seller, at its own expense, shall defend or settle any and all infringement actions filed against Seller or Purchaser which involves the Products/Services provided under this Agreement and shall pay all settlements, as well as all costs, attorney fees, settlements, damages, and judgment finally awarded against Purchaser. If the continued use of the Products/Services for the purpose intended is threatened to be enjoined or is enjoined by any court of competent jurisdiction, Seller shall, at its expense: (a) first procure for Purchaser the right to continue using the Products/Services, or upon failing to procure such right; (b) modify or replace the Products/Services or components thereof with non-infringing Products/Services so it becomes non-infringing, or upon failing to secure either such right; (c) refund the license fees previously paid by Purchaser for the Products/Services Purchaser may no longer use. Said refund shall be paid within ten (10) working days of notice to Purchaser to discontinue said use.

ARTICLE 10 INFRINGEMENT INDEMNIFICATION

10.1 Seller represents and warrants, to the best of its knowledge, that neither the software, its elements nor the use thereof violates or infringes upon any copyright, patent, trademark, servicemark, trade secret or other proprietary right of any person or entity. The software manufacturer or third party licensor, as applicable, in accordance with its contract with Purchaser and at its own expense, shall defend or settle any and all infringement actions filed against Seller or Purchaser which involve the software or other items provided under this Agreement and shall pay all settlements, as well as all costs, attorney fees, damages and judgment finally awarded against Purchaser. If the continued use of the Products for the purpose intended is threatened to be enjoined or is enjoined by any court of competent jurisdiction, the software manufacturer or third party licensor, as applicable shall, at its expense: (a) first procure for Purchaser the right to continue using such Products, or upon failing to procure such right; (b) modify or replace them with non-infringing products, or upon failing to secure either such right, (c) refund to Purchaser the purchase price or software license fees previously paid by Purchaser for the Products Purchaser may no longer use. Said refund shall be paid within ten (10) business days of notice to Purchaser to discontinue said use.

10.2 The parties understand and agree that pursuant to Section 100 of the Mississippi Constitution, the State can't agree to indemnify Seller or any third party.

ARTICLE 11 EMPLOYMENT STATUS

11.1 Seller shall, during the entire term of this Master Agreement, be construed to be an independent contractor. Nothing in this Master Agreement is intended to nor shall it be construed to create an employer-employee relationship or a joint venture relationship.

11.2 Seller represents that it is qualified to perform the duties to be performed under this Master Agreement and that it has, or will secure, if needed, at its own expense, applicable personnel who shall be qualified to perform the duties required under this Master Agreement. Such personnel shall not be deemed in any way directly or indirectly, expressly or by implication, to be employees of Purchaser. Seller shall pay when due, all salaries and wages of its employees and it accepts exclusive responsibility for the payment of federal income tax, state income tax, social security, unemployment compensation and any other withholdings that may be required. Neither Seller nor employees of Seller are entitled to state retirement or leave benefits.

11.3 Any person assigned by Seller to perform the services hereunder shall be the employee

or an authorized subcontractor of Seller, who shall have the sole right to hire and discharge its employee or subcontractor. Notwithstanding the use of authorized subcontractors, Seller shall remain solely responsible for the performance of its obligations under this Agreement. Purchaser may, however, request Seller to replace any of its employees or subcontractor personnel under this Master Agreement. If Seller is notified within the first eight (8) hours of assignment that the person is unsatisfactory, Seller will not charge Purchaser for those hours.

ARTICLE 12 BEHAVIOR OF EMPLOYEES/SUBCONTRACTORS

Seller will be responsible for the behavior of all its employees and subcontractors while on the premises of any Purchaser location. Any employee or subcontractor acting in a manner determined by the administration of that location to be detrimental, abusive or offensive to any of the staff and/or student body, will be asked to leave the premises and may be suspended from further work on the premises. All Seller employees and subcontractors who will be working at such locations to install or repair Products and/or provide Services shall be covered by Seller's comprehensive general liability insurance policy.

ARTICLE 13 AUTHORITY, ASSIGNMENT AND SUBCONTRACTS

13.1 In matters of proposals, negotiations, contracts, and resolution of issues and/or disputes, the Parties agree that Seller represents all contractors, third parties, and/or subcontractors Seller has assembled for any given Purchaser project. The Purchaser is only required to negotiate with Seller, as Seller's commitments are binding on all proposed contractors, third parties, and subcontractors.

13.2 Neither party to a supplement/purchase order and this Master Agreement may assign or otherwise transfer the supplement/purchase order and/or this Master Agreement or its obligations hereunder without the prior written consent of the other party, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld. Any attempted assignment or transfer of its obligations without such consent shall be null and void. The supplement/purchase order and this Master Agreement shall be binding upon the Parties' respective successors and assigns.

13.3 Seller must obtain the written approval of Purchaser before subcontracting any portion of the supplement/purchase order and this Master Agreement. No such approval by Purchaser of any subcontract shall be deemed in any way to provide for the incurrence of any obligation of Purchaser in addition to the total fixed price agreed upon in the supplement/purchase order. All subcontracts shall incorporate the terms of the supplement/purchase order and this Master Agreement and shall be subject to the terms and conditions of same and to any conditions of approval that Purchaser may deem necessary.

13.4 Seller represents and warrants that any subcontract agreement Seller enters into shall contain a provision advising the subcontractor that the subcontractor shall have no lien and no legal right to assert control over any funds held by the Purchaser, and that the subcontractor acknowledges that no privity of contract exists between the Purchaser and the subcontractor and that Seller is solely liable for any and all payments which may be due to the subcontractor pursuant to its subcontract agreement with Seller. Seller shall indemnify and hold harmless the State from and against any and all claims, demands, liabilities, suits, actions, damages, losses, costs and expenses of every kind and nature whatsoever arising as a result of Seller's failure to pay any and all amounts due by Seller to any subcontractor, materialman, laborer or the like.

13.5 All subcontractors shall be bound by any negotiation, arbitration, appeal, adjudication or

settlement of any dispute between Seller and the Purchaser, where such dispute affects the subcontract.

ARTICLE 14 AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

It is expressly understood and agreed that the obligation of Purchaser to proceed under this Master Agreement and the supplement/purchase order is conditioned upon the appropriation of funds by the Mississippi State Legislature and the receipt of state and/or federal funds for the performances required under this Master Agreement. If the funds anticipated for the fulfillment of this Master Agreement and the supplement/purchase order are not forthcoming, or are insufficient, either through the failure of the federal government to provide funds or of the State of Mississippi to appropriate funds, or if there is a discontinuance or material alteration of the program under which funds were available to Purchaser for the payments or performance due under this Master Agreement, Purchaser shall have the right to immediately terminate the supplement/purchase order and this Master Agreement as to itself only, without damage, penalty, cost or expense to Purchaser of any kind whatsoever. The effective date of termination shall be as specified in the notice of termination. Purchaser shall have the sole right to determine whether funds are available for the payments or performances due under the supplement/purchase order and this Master Agreement. Any payment due to Seller for services rendered by Seller prior to termination and received by Purchaser shall be paid.

ARTICLE 15 TERMINATION

15.1 Termination Upon Mutual Agreement: The supplement/purchase order may be terminated in whole or in part upon the mutual written agreement of Seller and the Purchaser.

15.2 Termination Due To Bankruptcy: Should Seller become the subject of bankruptcy or receivership proceedings, whether voluntary or involuntary, or execute an assignment for the benefit of its creditors, the Purchaser may terminate a supplement/purchase order and this Master Agreement solely as between those two entities and without the assessment of any penalties.

15.3 Termination Other Than For Cause: A Purchaser may terminate the supplement/purchase order and this Master Agreement as to itself only, in whole or in part and without the assessment of penalties, for any reason after giving thirty (30) calendar days written notice specifying the effective date thereof to Seller.

15.4 Termination For Cause: Either Purchaser or Seller may terminate a supplement/purchase order and this Master Agreement solely as between those two entities upon a material breach by the other party upon thirty (30) calendar days prior written notice unless the defaulting party cures such breach within such thirty (30) calendar-day period, or such other cure timeframe as may be mutually agreed upon by the Seller and Purchaser. Provided that, if the Purchaser terminates a supplement/purchase order and this Master Agreement solely as between those two entities because of Seller's inability to cure material defects after notice and opportunity to cure, the Purchaser may terminate the supplement/purchase order and this Master Agreement solely as between those two entities without also providing the notice and opportunity to cure required in this Article. The non-defaulting party may also pursue any remedy available to it in law or in equity.

15.5 Termination of Master Agreement: ITS may terminate the Master Agreement without the assessment of penalties for any reason after giving thirty (30) calendar days written notice specifying the effective date thereof to Seller, but any supplement/purchase order entered into

prior to the termination date of the Master Agreement shall survive the termination of the Master Agreement. The terms of this Master Agreement shall survive its termination/expiration with respect to any un-expired supplements/purchase orders.

15.6 Refund of Unexpended Fees: Upon termination of a supplement/purchase order, Seller shall refund any and all applicable unexpended pro-rated support/service fees previously paid by the Purchaser. Further, in the event a supplement/purchase order is terminated, Seller shall receive just and equitable compensation for satisfactory work completed by Seller and accepted by Purchaser prior to the termination. Such compensation shall be based upon and shall not exceed the amounts set forth in the particular supplement/purchase order.

ARTICLE 16 GOVERNING LAW

This Master Agreement and each supplement/purchase order shall be construed and governed in accordance with the laws of the State of Mississippi and venue for the resolution of any dispute shall be Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi. Seller expressly agrees that under no circumstances shall Purchaser or ITS be obligated to pay an attorneys fee, prejudgment interest or the cost of legal action to Seller. Further, nothing in this Master Agreement shall affect any statutory rights Purchaser may have that cannot be waived or limited by contract.

ARTICLE 17 WAIVER

Failure of either party hereto to insist upon strict compliance with any of the terms, covenants and conditions hereof shall not be deemed a waiver or relinquishment of any similar right or power hereunder at any subsequent time or of any other provision hereof, nor shall it be construed to be a modification of the terms of this Master Agreement. A waiver by the State, to be effective, must be in writing, must set out the specifics of what is being waived, and must be signed by an authorized representative of the State.

ARTICLE 18 SEVERABILITY

If any term or provision of a supplement/purchase order or this Master Agreement is prohibited by the laws of the State of Mississippi or declared invalid or void by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the supplement/purchase order or this Master Agreement shall be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law, provided that the Purchaser's purpose for entering into the supplement/purchase order can be fully achieved by the remaining portions of the supplement/purchase order that have not been severed.

ARTICLE 19 CAPTIONS

The captions or headings in this Master Agreement are for convenience only, and in no way define, limit or describe the scope or intent of any provision or section of this Master Agreement.

ARTICLE 20 HOLD HARMLESS

To the fullest extent allowed by law, Seller shall indemnify, defend, save and hold harmless, protect and exonerate Purchaser, ITS and the State, its Board Members, officers, employees, agents and representatives from and against any and all claims, demands, liabilities, suits, actions, damages, losses, costs and expenses of every kind and nature whatsoever, including without limitation, court costs, investigative fees and expenses, attorney fees and claims for damages arising out of or caused by the negligence or willful acts or omissions of Seller and/or its partners, principals, agents, employees or subcontractors in the performance of or failure to perform the supplement/purchase order and this Master Agreement.

ARTICLE 21 THIRD PARTY ACTION NOTIFICATION

Seller shall notify Purchaser and ITS in writing within five (5) business days of Seller filing bankruptcy, reorganization, liquidation or receivership proceedings or within five (5) business days of its receipt of notification of any action or suit being filed or any claim being made against Seller or Purchaser by any entity that may result in litigation related in any way to the supplement/purchase order or this Master Agreement and/or which may affect the Seller's performance under the supplement/purchase order and this Master Agreement. Failure of the Seller to provide such written notice to Purchaser and ITS shall be considered a material breach of this Master Agreement and the Purchaser and ITS may, at their sole discretion, pursue their rights as set forth in the Termination Article herein and any other rights and remedies they may have at law or in equity.

ARTICLE 22 AUTHORITY TO CONTRACT

Seller warrants that it is a validly organized business with valid authority to enter into this Master Agreement; that entry into and performance under this Master Agreement is not restricted or prohibited by any loan, security, financing, contractual or other agreement of any kind, and notwithstanding any other provision of this Master Agreement to the contrary, that there are no existing legal proceedings, or prospective legal proceedings, either voluntary or otherwise, which may adversely affect its ability to perform its obligations under a supplement/purchase order and this Master Agreement.

ARTICLE 23 NOTICE

Any notice required or permitted to be given under this Master Agreement shall be in writing and personally delivered or sent by electronic means provided that the original of such notice is sent by certified United States mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, or overnight courier with signed receipt, to the party to whom the notice should be given at their usual business address. ITS' address for notice is: David Johnson, Executive Director, Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services, 3771 Eastwood Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39211. Seller's address for notice is: **VENDOR NOTICE INFORMATION**. Notice shall be deemed given when actually received or when refused. The Parties agree to promptly notify each other in writing of any change of address.

ARTICLE 24 RECORD RETENTION AND ACCESS TO RECORDS

Seller shall establish and maintain financial records, supporting documents, statistical records and such other records as may be necessary to reflect its performance of the provisions of this Master Agreement and the supplement/purchase order. The Purchaser, ITS, any state or federal agency authorized to audit Purchaser, and/or any of their duly authorized representatives, shall, at their expense and upon prior reasonable notice to Seller, have access to any of the Seller's books, documents, papers and/or records that are pertinent to this Master Agreement to make audits, copies, examinations, excerpts and transcriptions at the State's or Seller's office as applicable where such records are kept during normal business hours. All records relating to this Master Agreement and the supplement/purchase order shall be retained by the Seller for three (3) years from the date of receipt of final payment under this Master Agreement and the supplement/purchase order. However, if any litigation or other legal action, by or for the state or federal government has begun that is not completed at the end of the three (3) year period, or if an audit finding, litigation or other legal action has not been resolved at the end of the three (3) year period, the records shall be retained until resolution.

ARTICLE 25 INSURANCE

Seller represents that it will maintain workers' compensation insurance as prescribed by law which shall inure to the benefit of Seller's personnel, as well as comprehensive general liability and employee fidelity bond insurance. Seller will, upon request, furnish Purchaser with a certificate of conformity providing the aforesaid coverage.

ARTICLE 26 DISPUTES

26.1 Should disputes arise with respect to the supplement/purchase order and/or this Master Agreement, Seller and Purchaser agree to act immediately to resolve such disputes. Time is of the essence in the resolution of disputes. Seller agrees that, the existence of a dispute notwithstanding, it will continue without delay to carry out all of its responsibilities under the supplement/purchase order and/or this Master Agreement. Should Seller fail to continue without delay to perform its responsibilities under the supplement/purchase order and/or this Master Agreement in the accomplishment of all work, any additional costs incurred by Seller or Purchaser as a result of such failure to proceed shall be borne by Seller and Seller shall make no claim against Purchaser for such costs.

26.2 If Seller and Purchaser cannot resolve a dispute within ten (10) calendar days following written notification by either party of the existence of said dispute, then the following procedure shall apply:

A. Seller and Purchaser agree to resolve such matters through submission of their dispute to the Executive Director of ITS, who shall reduce his/her decision to writing and mail or otherwise furnish a copy thereof to the Seller and Purchaser within ten (10) calendar days after presentation of such dispute for his/her decision.

B. Purchaser may withhold payments on disputed items pending resolution of the dispute. The withholding of such payments shall not constitute cause for termination or suspension of the supplement/purchase order and/or this Master Agreement by Seller.

C. Disagreement with the Executive Director's decision by either party shall not constitute a breach under the terms of this Master Agreement. Such disagreeing party shall be entitled to seek such other rights and remedies it may have at law or in equity.

ARTICLE 27 COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

27.1 Seller shall comply with, and all activities under a supplement/purchase order and this Master Agreement shall be subject to, all Purchaser policies and procedures of which Seller has knowledge, and all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations as now existing and as may be amended or modified. Specifically, but not limited to, Seller shall not discriminate against any employee nor shall any party be subject to discrimination in the performance of the supplement/purchase order and this Master Agreement because of race, creed, color, sex, age, national origin or disability. Further, if applicable, Seller shall comply with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act including, but not limited to, the wages, recordkeeping, reporting and notice requirements set forth therein.

27.2 Seller represents and warrants that it will comply with the state's data breach notification laws codified at Section 75-24-29 of the Mississippi Code Annotated (Supp. 2012).

27.3 To the extent applicable, Seller represents and warrants that it will comply with the applicable provisions of the HIPAA Privacy Rule and Security Regulations (45 CFR Parts 160, 162 and 164) ("Privacy Rule" and "Security Regulations", individually; or "Privacy and Security Regulations", collectively); and the provisions of the Health Information Technology for Economic

and Clinical Health Act, Title XIII of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. No. 111-5 (the "HITECH Act"). Further, if applicable, Seller represents and warrants that it will comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232(g), the FERPA regulations set forth under 34 C.F.R. § 99 *et seq.*, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) 20 U.S.C. §§ 1400 *et seq.* and regulations.

ARTICLE 28 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Seller shall notify Purchaser of any potential conflict of interest resulting from the representation of or service to other clients. If such conflict cannot be resolved to Purchaser's satisfaction, Purchaser reserves the right to terminate the supplement/purchase order and this Master Agreement as to itself only.

ARTICLE 29 SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY

By entering into this Master Agreement with Seller, the State of Mississippi does in no way waive its sovereign immunities or defenses as provided by law.

ARTICLE 30 CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

30.1 Seller shall treat all Purchaser data and information to which it has access by Seller's performance under a supplement/purchase order and this Master Agreement as confidential and shall not disclose such data or information to a third party without specific written consent. In the event that Seller receives notice that a third party requests divulgence of confidential or otherwise protected information and/or has served upon it a subpoena or other validly issued administrative or judicial process ordering divulgence of such information, the Seller shall promptly inform Purchaser and thereafter respond in conformity with such subpoena to the extent mandated by state and/or federal laws, rules and regulations. This Article shall survive the termination or completion of the supplement/purchase order or this Master Agreement and shall continue in full force and effect and shall be binding upon the Seller and its agents, employees, successors, assigns, subcontractors or any party or entity claiming an interest in the supplement/purchase order or this Master Agreement on behalf of, or under the rights of the Seller following any termination or completion of the supplement/purchase order or this Master Agreement.

30.2 The foregoing obligations do not apply to information which: (a) is or becomes known by the Seller without an obligation to maintain its confidentiality; (b) is or becomes generally known to the public through no act or omission of Seller, or (c) is independently developed by Seller without use of confidential or proprietary information.

30.3 The parties understand and agree that this Master Agreement, including any amendments, supplements/purchase orders, and/or change orders thereto, does not constitute confidential information, and may be reproduced and distributed by the State without notification to Seller. ITS will provide third party notice to Seller of any requests received by ITS for documents marked confidential in Seller's RFP or LOC (if applicable) so as to allow Seller the opportunity to protect the information by court order as outlined in ITS Public Records Procedures and Miss. Code Ann. § 25-61-9. ITS/Purchaser shall not be liable to Seller for disclosure of information required by court order or required by law. It is further understood by Seller that copies of this executed Master Agreement may be distributed to the governmental agencies, governing authorities, and educational institutions of the State of Mississippi.

30.4 The parties understand and agree that pursuant to § 25-61-9(7) of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, the contract provisions specifying the commodities purchased or the

services provided; the price to be paid; and the term of this Master Agreement shall not be deemed confidential information.

ARTICLE 31 EFFECT OF SIGNATURE

Each person signing a supplement/purchase order or this Master Agreement represents that he or she has read the supplement/purchase order and this Master Agreement in its entirety, understands its terms, is duly authorized to execute the supplement/purchase order or this Master Agreement on behalf of the parties and agrees to be bound by the terms contained herein. Accordingly, the supplement/purchase order and this Master Agreement shall not be construed or interpreted in favor of or against the State or Seller on the basis of draftsmanship or preparation hereof.

ARTICLE 32 OWNERSHIP OF DOCUMENTS AND WORK PRODUCTS

The Purchaser shall own all files, work papers, documentation, programs, data bases (and all applications thereof), data, and/or other material, electronic or otherwise, collected and created in connection with work performed under a supplement/purchase order, whether completed or in progress, except for: (a) Seller's internal administrative and quality assurance files and internal project correspondence; (b) software, documents, objects or things owned by Seller or a third party and pre-existing the work performed under the supplement/purchase order, and (c) documents, objects or things in which Seller has no right to transfer ownership. As to such documents, objects and things, Seller shall convey such right or interest to the extent allowed by law. Seller shall deliver such documents and work papers to Purchaser upon termination or completion of the supplement/purchase order. The foregoing notwithstanding, Seller shall be entitled to retain a set of such work papers only after receiving written permission from the Purchaser.

ARTICLE 33 FORCE MAJEURE

Both Seller and the Purchaser shall be excused from performance for any period and to the extent that it is prevented from performing any obligation or service, in whole or in part, as a result of causes beyond the reasonable control and without the fault or negligence of such party and/or its subcontractors. Such acts shall include without limitation, acts of God, strikes, lockouts, riots, acts of war or terrorism, epidemics, governmental regulations superimposed after the fact, fire, earthquakes, floods or other natural disasters (the "Force Majeure Events"). When such a cause arises, the Seller shall notify the Purchaser immediately in writing of the cause of its inability to perform; how it affects its performance, and the anticipated duration of the inability to perform. Delays in delivery or in meeting completion dates due to Force Majeure Events shall extend such dates as mutually agreed to by the Seller and Purchaser, unless ITS and/or Purchaser determines it to be in the best interest to terminate in accordance with Article 15.

ARTICLE 34 STATE PROPERTY

Seller shall be responsible for the proper custody of any Purchaser-owned property furnished for Seller's use in connection with work performed pursuant to any supplement/purchase order. Seller shall reimburse the Purchaser for any loss or damage, normal wear and tear excepted.

ARTICLE 35 NEWS RELEASES

News releases pertaining to a supplement/purchase order or this Master Agreement or the products, study, data, or project to which it relates will not be made without prior written Purchaser approval, and then only in accordance with the explicit written instructions from Purchaser.

ARTICLE 36 SURVIVAL

Articles 9, 10, 16, 20, 24, 27, 29, 30, 32, 44, and all other articles which, by their express terms so survive or which should so reasonably survive, shall survive any termination or expiration of the supplement/purchase order or this Master Agreement. The terms of this Master Agreement shall survive its termination or expiration with respect to any un-expired supplements/purchase orders.

ARTICLE 37 ENTIRE AGREEMENT

37.1 This Master Agreement constitutes the entire agreement of the Parties with respect to the subject matter contained herein and supersedes and replaces any and all prior negotiations, understandings and agreements, written or oral, between the Parties relating hereto, including all terms of any unsigned or "shrink-wrap" license included in any package, media or electronic version of Seller-furnished software, or any "click-wrap" or "browse-wrap" license presented in connection with a purchase via the internet. The RFP No. 4347, Seller's Proposal, as accepted by ITS in response to RFP No. 4347, and the supplement/purchase order are hereby incorporated into and made a part of this Master Agreement as far as the individual governmental agency/institution is concerned.

37.2 The Master Agreement made by and between the Parties hereto shall consist of, and precedence is hereby established by the order of the following:

- A. This Master Agreement signed by Seller and ITS, and all attachments;
- B. RFP No. 4347;
- C. Official written correspondence from ITS to Seller;
- D. Official written correspondence from Seller to ITS when clarifying Seller's proposal;
- E. Seller's Proposal, as accepted by ITS, in response to RFP No. 4347, and
- F. The actual supplement/purchase order or additional contract, if required, between Purchaser and Seller.

37.3 The intent of the above listed documents is to include all items necessary for the proper execution and completion of the services by Seller. The documents are complementary, and what is required by one shall be binding as if required by all. A higher order document shall supersede a lower order document to the extent necessary to resolve any conflict or inconsistency arising under the various provisions thereof; provided, however, that in the event an issue is addressed in one of the above mentioned documents but is not addressed in another of such documents, no conflict or inconsistency shall be deemed to occur by reason thereof. The documents listed above are shown in descending order of priority, that is, the highest document begins with the first listed document ("A. This Master Agreement signed by Seller and ITS, and all attachments") and the lowest document is listed last ("F. The actual supplement/purchase order").

ARTICLE 38 SERVICES

When ordered by Purchaser, Seller agrees to provide consulting, training and technical support services as mutually agreed upon by Seller and Purchaser.

ARTICLE 39 DEBARMENT AND SUSPENSION CERTIFICATION

Seller certifies that neither it nor its principals: (a) are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any federal department or agency; (b) have, within a three (3) year period preceding this Master Agreement, been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a

criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain or performing a public (federal, state or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of federal or state anti-trust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements or receiving stolen property; (c) are presently indicted of or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity with the commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain or performing a public (federal, state or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of federal or state anti-trust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements or receiving stolen property, and (d) have, within a three (3) year period preceding this Master Agreement, had one or more public transaction (federal, state or local) terminated for cause or default.

ARTICLE 40 COMPLIANCE WITH ENTERPRISE SECURITY

The parties (Seller and Purchaser) understand and agree that all Products and services provided by Seller under this Master Agreement must allow Purchaser to be and remain in compliance with the State of Mississippi's Enterprise Security Policy. The parties understand and agree that the State's Enterprise Security Policy is based on industry-standard best practices, policy, and guidelines at the time of contract execution. The parties (Seller and Purchaser) understand and agree that the Purchaser is responsible for maintaining compliance with the State of Mississippi's Enterprise Security Policy. The State reserves the right to introduce a new policy during the term of this Master Agreement and require Seller to comply with same. If Seller is unable or unwilling to comply with the new policy, the parties (Seller and Purchaser) agree to enter into discussions in an attempt to reach an amicable resolution. In the event a mutual agreement is not reached, both Microsoft and the Purchaser shall be released from their obligations under the particular supplement/purchase order.

ARTICLE 41 COMPLIANCE WITH ENTERPRISE CLOUD AND OFFSITE HOSTING SECURITY

If applicable, Seller and Purchaser understand and agree that all products and services provided by the Contractor under this Agreement must allow Purchaser to be and remain in compliance with the State of Mississippi's Enterprise Cloud and Offsite Hosting Security Policy. The parties understand and agree that the State's Enterprise Cloud and Offsite Hosting Security Policy is based on industry-standard best practices, policy, and guidelines at the time of contract execution and augments the Enterprise Security Policy. The State reserves the right to introduce a new policy during the term of this Agreement and require the Contractor to comply with same in the event the industry introduces more secure, robust solutions or practices that facilitate a more secure posture for the State of Mississippi.

ARTICLE 42 TRANSPARENCY

In accordance with the Mississippi Accountability and Transparency Act of 2008, § 27-104-151, et seq., of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as Amended, the American Accountability and Transparency Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-5), where applicable, and § 31-7-13 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, where applicable, a fully executed copy of this Master Agreement and any subsequent amendments, supplement/purchase orders, and/or change orders shall be posted to the State of Mississippi's accountability website at: <https://www.transparency.mississippi.gov>. It is understood and agreed that pursuant to § 25-61-9(7) of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, the contract provisions specifying the commodities purchased or the services provided; the price to be paid; and the term of this Agreement shall not be deemed a trade secret or confidential commercial or financial information.

ARTICLE 43 STATUTORY AUTHORITY

By virtue of Section 25-53-21 of the Mississippi Code Annotated, as amended, the executive director of ITS is the purchasing and contracting agent for the State of Mississippi in the negotiation and execution of all contracts for the acquisition of information technology equipment, software and services. The parties understand and agree that ITS as contracting agent is not responsible or liable for the performance or non-performance of any of the Licensee's or Licensor's contractual obligations, financial or otherwise, contained within this Agreement. The parties further acknowledge that ITS is not responsible for ensuring compliance with any guidelines, conditions, or requirements mandated by Licensee's funding source.

ARTICLE 44 NON-SOLICITATION OF EMPLOYEES

Each party to this Agreement agrees not to employ or to solicit for employment, directly or indirectly, any of the other party's employees until at least one (1) year after the expiration/termination of this Agreement, unless mutually agreed to the contrary in writing by the Purchaser and the Seller, and provided that such an agreement between these two entities is not a violation of the laws of the State of Mississippi or the federal government.

For the faithful performance of the terms of this Master Agreement, the Parties have caused this Master Agreement to be executed by their undersigned representatives.

State of Mississippi, Department of
Information Technology Services, on behalf
of of the agencies and institutions
of the State of Mississippi

VENDOR NAME

By: _____
Authorized Signature

By: _____
Authorized Signature

Printed Name: David Johnson

Printed Name: _____

Title: Executive Director

Title: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

**EXHIBIT A
FORM FOR
ALTERNATIVE USES OF SUPPORT ASSISTANCE HOURS
BETWEEN
<AGENCY OR IHL NAME>
AND
<VENDOR NAME>**

This Form ("Form"), effective on the last date signed below (the "Effective Date"), is made by and between **VENDOR NAME**, having a place of business at **VENDOR ADDRESS**, and the **(INSERT NAME OF CUSTOMER AGENCY)** having its principal place of business at **(INSERT CUSTOMER AGENCY ADDRESS)** (hereinafter referred to as "Customer").

WHEREAS, on the **INSERT DATE OF EXECUTION MASTER**, the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services ("ITS") and **VENDOR NAME** entered into an Master Agreement whereby **VENDOR NAME** would fulfill the requirements of an authorized reseller of Microsoft products (the "Master Agreement");

WHEREAS, Customer has engaged **VENDOR NAME** to provide said reseller services and related work;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and the covenants hereinafter contained, the parties hereto agree as follows:

I. DESCRIPTION OF USE.

VENDOR NAME and Customer agree that the Customer may use **<number of hours>** Premier Product Support Assistance hours to fund the workshop or event listed below for the following attendees.

Workshop or Event Description	Name of Attendee	Dates of Workshop or Event	Number of Support Assistance Hours

II. EFFECT OF FORM.

Except as specifically amended by this Form, the total Microsoft Premier Product Support Assistance hours due to Customer shall remain unchanged and remain in full force and effect. When this Form is fully executed, you will receive a confirming copy.

Authorization

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this Form to be executed by their duly authorized representatives as of the date first above written.

By: **<Agency or IHL Name>**

Authorized Signature

Name

Title

Date

By: **<Vendor Name>**

Authorized Signature

Name

Title

Date